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A HISTORY OF THE O'HANLONS

Handlin, Monroe H.  
History of the O'Hanlons

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by  
Monroe H. Handlin  
Riverdale, North Dakota  
May 1954







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Handlin, Monroe H  
History of the O'Hanlons

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IRELAND

BEFORE THE ANGLO-NORMAN INVASION.

The parts colored red indicate the position of the  
Danish Settlements.

*Copy of map in Walpole's  
"Kingdom of Ireland"*













## PREFACE

This history of the Irish sept of O'Hanlon covers the period from the time of Saint Patrick to the Ulster Plantation in the early part of the seventeenth century. It is written primarily for those American descendants of the early O'Hanlons who have little knowledge of their forebears.

During the years that I have been working on the history, I naturally spoke occasionally of my Irish research and my friends would often bring me interesting newspaper or magazine articles. Once I mentioned to an associate that Handlin was derived from "Anluan" which meant "hero" or "champion" in Irish. A little later, my friend handed me a magazine article which narrated an old legend about as follows. At an Irish feast, during the early part of the Christian era, the most famous champion present had the right to carve. A wealthy Leinster landowner gave a feast to which he invited the Kings of Connaught and Ulster who were always bitter foes. The King of Connaught thrust forward a great warrior from his country who scornfully related how he had triumphed over the Ulster heroes present and he was about to carve the pig when a belated Ulster hero arrived. Conall Kernach, the Ulster hero, bested the Connaught champion in a duel of words. The Connaught man yielded saying that Conall would not be carving if his brother Anluan were present. Conall reached inside his baggy tunic-"Anluan is here!" he shouted as he cast the head of Anluan, whom he had met on the way to the feast, full into his brother's face. Conall then bent over the pig, took its tail between his teeth, and began to carve. This, of course, is an earlier Anluan than the one from whom the O'Hanlons are descended.

The commonly anglicized form of the Irish name Ua hAnluan is O'Hanlon. However, there is another Gaelic spelling of the clan name which is Ua hAnnlain and during the Middle Irish period, about 1100 to about 1500, had come to be merely a way of writing nn which gave an English translation of the name to O'Handlin. Through correspondence with O'Hanlons in county Armagh, Ireland, I learned that O'Hanlon is often pronounced O'Handlin at the present time even though the more common form of spelling is used.

I haven't succeeded in compiling as complete a history of the O'Hanlons as I had originally envisioned. This lack of completeness is due partially to the difficulty I experienced in obtaining books for research







but primarily the incompleteness is due to the lack of historical details concerning the O'Hanlons during their more powerful periods. The lack of attention accorded the O'Hanlons by historians is natural as the O'Hanlon power began to wane after the Norse invasions and, also, because they were probably pro-English. It has been said that O'Hanlon and Magennis were the only Irish friends that Queen Elizabeth had in Ulster.

It will be noted in this history that I have retained many of the words and phrases used in my older source books. I have done this to retain the original meaning and, also, to indicate a mode of expression which now seems so quaint.

I believe that "Airthir", the country of the O'Hanlons, originally was one of the two great lordships into which the kingdom of Airgialla was divided at an early date. In addition, it is probable that Airgialla was originally divided into nine territories which were occupied by the nine principal clans. The clan Ui Niallain, of which the O'Hanlons were chiefs was located in what are now the counties of Armagh and Louth. The O'Hanlons as chiefs of the Ui Niallain were eligible for the kingship of Airthir, and they were also eligible for the kingship of Airgialla. Because all chiefs and kings were elected from the several kingly families, the O'Hanlons shared their right to the various kingships with several other families. However, they were kings of Airthir so frequently for so many hundreds of years that by the time of the Norman invasion the words "O'Hanlon's country" and "Orior" (Airthir) were synonymous. Even though O'Hanlon's country was encroached upon and confiscated by the O'Neills and the English, he was able to remain an independent chieftain until the final confiscation of the O'Hanlon estates early in the seventeenth century. It is said that the stone on which the O'Hanlon was crowned King of Orior is still displayed to Carlingford visitors.

The O'Hanlons are commonly referred to as belonging to Clan Colla of whom the legendary progenitors were three brothers: Colla Uais, Colla Meann and Colla-da-Chrioch. The three Collas were grandsons of Cairbre Lifechar, monarch of Ireland from 268 to 284. In the year 332, the three Collas are stated to have conquered the ancient Ultonians and forced them to make a new home east of the river Bann in what are now the counties of Antrim and Down. However, there are a number of circumstances which are presented by Dr. Thomas F. O'Rahilly in his book "Early Irish History and Mythology" which make the history of the Collas







seem improbable. Therefore, since most Irish historians agree that Irish history is fairly authentic from about the time of Saint Patrick, I have assumed a starting period at that time and have based the early history of Airgialla on Dr. O'Rahilly's conclusions.

The Gaelic way of living was founded on a pastoral economy. Cattle and sheep were the principal items of wealth which the ruling classes rented at interest to the farmers of the clan. Most of the clan land was owned in common although, over long periods of time, part of the land became owned by individuals. That portion of the clan land not arable was used by the entire clan for grazing purposes. A certain portion of land was set aside for the use of the chief during his tenure in office.

Persons accused of crime were judged by brehons and, if guilty, were usually fined in accordance with detailed Gaelic laws. If the offender, or his family, refused to pay the fine, the clan chief collected his warriors and attempted to collect the fine by force. Very probably, some similar reason was the cause of many of the ancient battles.

Sean O'Faolain in his book "The Great O'Neill" gives the following description of an Irish chief on a visit to one of his under chiefs: "But it is not merely of buildings that he thinks as he sets out on some long ride through his demesnes, but of his urraghs, or liegemen, bound to him by bonds of service and fealty, or by those links of fosterage and gossipred which form a stronger alliance than blood--O'Hagans and O'Hanlons, Quinns and MacMahons, Conlans and Devlins, Magennises and O'Dogherty, close and distant O'Donnells and O'Neills--the inextricable network of Gaelic society from which every captain like himself got his lawful dues of oats and oatmeal, butter, and hogs, and mutton, and rents. He would see every one of these at least twice a year, at May and Hallowtide, when he wove his way with his retinue of swordsmen and horsemen, lawyers, chroniclers, and poets, around the spring-to-autumn woodland camps. At these camps O'Neill would dismount. The food would be laid out on great stone slabs or on the beaten fern. He would sit to it under the clouds of heaven. His host's reaceire, or orator, might relay a poem of welcome. The harper would strum a simple accompaniment on his little eight-stringed harp. A friar would recite the grace. It would all be a simple ceremony, as unromantic as habit. If it were dull weather they would eat in the "castle," almost certainly a wooden building. After the meal, O'Neill would settle down to







business to the discussion of crops, and cattle, and rents, and raids, for the whole source of his power was his capacity to protect his liegemen against others, and that nexus bound them to him, and him to them, in a bond of mutual advantage."

The maps included in this history are, with some exceptions, my interpretation of the extent of the kingdom of Airgialla and the lordship of Airthir. The map outlining Argialla for the year 500 has been adapted from a map in T. J. Dunne's "Geography of Ireland." However, the extent of Airthir can be approximated only by considering that Airthir meant the "eastern parts", and attempting to analyse the extent of this area by considering the annalistic entries. The maps for 1100 and 1400 are based on a consideration of the maps contained in Walpole's "The Kingdom of Ireland"; Falkiner's "Illustrations of Irish History and Topography"; Haverty's "History of Ireland"; and Curtis' "History of Ireland" and "History of Medieval Ireland." The map for 1610 has been redrawn from a photostat copy of a map in the British Museum in London and I have been told that it probably is not correct in all details.

The pedigree of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon is the only readily available O'Hanlon pedigree which extends back to Niallan, progenitor of the clan. Very probably other O'Hanlon pedigrees exist in ancient manuscripts in Ireland which I had planned to include, if extant, in this history. Circumstances have, however, prevented fulfillment of this objective. Similarly, there are probably other O'Hanlon coats of arms than the one shown in this history which is attributed to the descendants of Redmond O'Hanlon.

I wish to thank Mrs. Robert Steies, and Messrs. Bryan Fry, V. A. Morgan, and J. G. Lightfoot, all of Montana, for reading and commenting on the history in which they had no particular interest. I, also, wish to thank Mr. C. E. Vigre for drawing the O'Hanlon coat of arms and for the finish work on my maps.

And principally I want to thank my wife and our children for being so patient with me while I have worked on this history. In addition to her house-keeping chores and raising seven children, my wife has typed all of the history for me in her spare time.

Monroe Henry James Handlin  
Riverdale, North Dakota  
May 1954





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## A HISTORY OF THE O'HANLONS

By Monroe Handlin

### Part I. Prior to the Norse Invasions

With the surrender of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, to the English Sovereign in 1603, the Gaelic way of life came to an end. There also disappeared from power most of the Gaelic lords who had aided O'Neill in his unsuccessful war. Following O'Neill's flight to the continent and the resulting Ulster Plantation, the old northern Irish were uprooted and driven to other territories or were allotted small acreages of their former domains. In the latter class were the O'Hanlons, known to history as Lords of Orior and Hereditary Standard Bearers to the King of Ulster. O'Hanlon is the more commonly anglicized form of the Irish Ua h Anluain which signifies descent from the hero or champion. Another Gaelic spelling of the name is Ua hAnnluain and other anglicized forms of the clan name include Hanlowne, Handlon, Handlin, Hanlan, Hanlin, etc.

An important event in the political life of Ulster occurred during the reign of high king Niall Noigiallach, 379-406. This was the defeat of the inhabitants of that territory and their forced migration east of the River Bann by Eogan, Conall and Enda, sons of King Niall, who were the progenitors of the northern tribe of Ui Neill. They set up a subkingdom in northwestern Ireland which became known as Ailech and eventually was expanded and subdivided into Tir Eogan and Tir Conaill. As has been customary in all ages, to the victors belonged the spoils, and central and southern Ulster were parcelled out to the fighting men who had aided Niall's sons. The group of petty states thus formed became known as Airgialla, and probably included most of the present counties of Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Louth. A little later the Kingdom of Airgialla was subdivided into two lordships, one of which was called Airthir, (anglicized Orior) or eastern parts. This was the country of the O'Hanlons and probably included Counties Armagh, Louth and part of Tyrone. Here the O'Hanlons lived and ruled a diminishing territory until the seventeenth century.

It seems remarkable that one sept could retain possession of not only one of the richest agricultural areas in Ireland but also one of the most strategic. In 1598, the Lord Deputy stated that Armagh had the most fruitful and luxuriant soil of all Ireland and, during the Ulster Plantation, English colonists displayed a decided preference for land there. Strategically, the Moyry Pass in southern Armagh was the main pass through which the English entered Ulster and, consequently, the O'Hanlons bore the brunt of the invaders' might. Too, the city of Armagh was a focal point for the aggressors (principally the O'Neills and the English) probably because of its ecclesiastical importance although Dublin was reckoned inferior, in an official sense to Armagh, until the reign of Elizabeth,







# ULSTER 500 A.D.



*Present County Divisions shown by dotted lines*





when the seat of government was permanently fixed in Dublin; a proceeding which incidentally disposed of the claim of Drogheda to be considered the most important town in the kingdom. Contributing to Armagh's importance was its school, founded about 457, which was the oldest and most celebrated of the ancient schools of Ireland. Among those who taught there were St. Patrick, Benignus, and Gildas the Wise. The school was plundered many times by the Danes in the 9th and 10th centuries and it was finally destroyed by the Normans in the 12th century.

In the early centuries following the creation of Airgialla, there was a nominal king who was the overlord and was chosen from the ruling families of the sub-states, which included the O'Hanlons of Airthir. However, in the course of time, the states of the loose confederation making up Airgialla tended to become more independent and gradually broke up into minor principalities. This, of course, aided the Ui Neill in their eastward expansion and subsequent assumption of power over most of Ulster.

In the height of its glory, Airgialla was powerful and enjoyed a number of unique privileges from the high king of Ireland. Among these privileges were the right to sit at the right hand of the high king as pointed out by an ancient poet: (From Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish by O'Curry)

"The right hand of Teamair's powerful king,  
Without injustice, without reproach,  
To the Airgiallians doth belong,  
Without decision of law, without dispute."

Other privileges of the Airgialla included "not being bound to attend but on a hosting of three fortnights every third year, with the supreme king of Ireland; and they do not go then if it be spring or autumn; and seven ~~bondwomen~~ **for every man of them** lost on that hosting; and they make restitution in the seventh part only; and they pay not, for the theft they may commit, if the thief's oath (deny it); and their hostages are not bound in fetters, nor in chains, save that they swear by the hand of the king that they will not then make their escape, and if then they do depart, that they shall not have the inheritance of earth or heaven."

A hosting was a journey undertaken by a king with his immediate followers and warriors into those areas over which he claimed superiority. A part of the subject chieftain's tribute to the higher king consisted in providing food and lodging for the overlord and his retinue for a specified period of time. During the hosting, the overlord presented the vassal chiefs with gifts and received gifts and hostages in return. Hostages, of course, were usually taken from the chief's family to insure their value. Usually a hosting was a peaceful journey but, on some occasions, it was a succession of battles particularly if there was a disinclination on the part of the supposed vassal to so consider himself.







Actually in Gaelic Ireland, although there was a nominal high king and several provincial kings, the individual tribes were fairly independent and owed an allegiance which fluctuated with the power of the superior king. Kings of all grades were elected from among the royal families that were considered to be of that kingly line. As a result, in all of the kingdoms, there were two or more families considered to have the right of eligibility to the kingship. This naturally led to the inter-tribal wars so frequent in Irish history. As a rule, a tanist, or king-successor, was elected during the lifetime of the ruling king which had a tendency to reduce the number of succession quarrels although this practice was not particularly successful.

In common with other Irish pedigrees, the early ancestors of the O'Hanlons, as enumerated by O'Hart are of doubtful authenticity. However, the ancestor of the clan Ui Niallan, of which the O'Hanlons were chiefs, may be assumed as a starting point. The Niallan from whom the Ui Niallan clan descended lived prior to the year 400. His grandson, Muireadach, was the uncle of Daire, King of Airgialla during the time of Saint Patrick. The legend of Daire and St. Patrick concerning the founding of Armagh in 445 as taken from the Book of Armagh by Betham in his Irish Antiquarian Researches is:

"There was a certain man, rich and honorable in the eastern country, whose name was Daire, him Patrick asked to give him some place to exercise their religion.

And the rich man said to the Saint, "What place do you require?" "I ask you," said the Saint, "To give me that high spot of ground which is called Dorsum Salicis, and I will construct there a place for the purpose." But he was unwilling to give the saint that high part, but he gave him another place, in a lower situation, where now is Fertie of the martyrs, near Armagh, and Saint Patrick dwelt there with his followers.

And after a short time a horseman of Daire's came, leading a horse, belong to Daire, to feed in a grassy place. (Christi annorum) (\*I cannot see the meaning of this.) The bringing down of the horse into his place offended Patrick, and he said, "Daire has acted foolishly in sending brutish animals to disturb this holy place which he gave to God."

But the horseman, as if deaf, did not hear him, and as if dumb, not opening his mouth, spoke not, but having let out his horse there, for that night, departed.

On the following day, in the morning, the horseman coming to see the horse, found him dead, and he returned sad, and said to his lord--"Behold! the Christian has slain your horse, for the disturbance of his place offended him." And Daire said, "He also, shall be now slain, go and kill him." And as they were going, instantly death seized upon Daire--and his wife said--"The Christian is the cause of this, let some one go quickly, and let his blessings be brought to us, and he shall be safe. And let them who went out to kill him be prevented and recalled."







And the two men went out to slay him, who said to the Christian concealing from him what had happened; Behold! Daire is sick, let something be brought to him from you, if perchance it may have the power to cure him."

But Saint Patrick, knowing what had happened, said "Certainly." And he blessed water, and gave it to them, saying, "Go, sprinkle your horse with this water, and carry him with you;" And they did so, and the horse revived, and they carried him with them--and Daire was also restored by the sprinkling of holy water.

And Daire came after this, that he might honour Saint Patrick, carrying with him a wonderful brazen foreign vessel, containing three measures, and Daire said to the Saint, "Take this brazen vessel with you;" and Saint Patrick said, "grassichum." (Thank you). And Daire returned home and said, "This is a foolish fellow, who said nothing good, except grassichum." Then Daire sent again for the wonderful brazen vessel containing three measures, and said to his servants, "Go, carry back to us our brazen vessel." And they departed, and said to Patrick, "We will carry back the brazen vessel." And Saint Patrick again replied, grassichum, "carry it off." And they bore it away, and Daire questioned his companions, saying, "What did the Christian say, have you not brought back the brazen vessel?" And they answered, "He said, grassichum." And Daire answered, "He says grassichum when I give and grassichum, when I take away." They carried again to him the brazen vessel--and Daire came himself and carried the brazen vessel to Patrick, saying to him, "Take your brazen vessel with you, for you are a constant and immoveable man; and moreover, that part of the land, which you formerly requested, I now give you, as much as I have, and dwell there;" that is the city, which is now called Armagh. And they both departed, Saint Patrick and Daire, that they might consider the wonderful offerings, and the pleasing gift, and to ascend that height of ground. They found a deer, with her little fawn, lying in the place where is now an altar of the church of Armagh, and the associates of Patrick rashly wished to slay the fawn, but the Saint was unwilling, and did not permit it; but the Saint himself holding the fawn, carried it on his shoulders, and the deer following him, even like a most attached sheep, until at length he let down the fawn in another wood, situated at the northern side of Armagh, where those persons skilled in such matters say, that some signs of his virtue remain even to this day. (Note: Aidus calls all this a fable.)"

Additional information concerning King Daire and Saint Patrick is mentioned in Keating's History of Ireland as translated by John O'Mahony: "It was while Laegairi was king, (in the year 438) that Dubthach O'Lugair, Fergus the Poet, and Roas, son of Tirchim, submitted the Senchas, that is, the Historic Tradition of the country,







to Saint Patrick, in order to have it purified and approved of by that saint. From this it came, that Laegari was induced to call a general convention, at which the king, clergy and bardsages of Ireland were assembled together, for the purpose of rectifying the said national records. When this convention had met, its members selected nine of their number for the duty, to-wit: three kings, three bishops, and three ollamhs. The three kings were, Laegari, son of Niall, King of Ireland; Dari, King of Ulster; and Corc, son of Lugaidh, King of Munster; the three bishops were, Patrick, Benen, and Cairnech; the three ollamhs, or doctors of history were, Dubthach, Fergus and Rosa, son of Tirchim. By these nine, the traditions were purified and set in order. It is the work which resulted from their labors, that is now called the Senchas Mor, that is, the Great Tradition." Incidentally, the ollamhs or ollaves were the historians, genealogists and poets of Gaelic Ireland and became ollamhs only after a prolonged period of study. All kings had their ollamh and one of his principal duties was to preserve the history and genealogy of the king and his tribe.

At this time there were three principal divisions in Ulster; Ailech in the northwestern part of Ireland, the territory of the northern Ui Neill; Airgialla, the central and southern part of Ulster; and, Uladh, that portion of Ulster east of the River Bann and Lough Neagh.

In the year 493 Saint Patrick died and the Annals of the Four Masters as translated by O'Donovan tell us that "There was a rising of battle, and a cause of dissension in the province contending for the body of Patrick after his death. The Ui Neill and the Oirghialla (i.e. the descendants of the Collas, who, at this time, possessed a vast territory in Ulster, lying west of the River Bann and Gleann-Righe) attempting to bring it to Armagh: the Ulta (called by Colgan, in his translation of the Tripartite Life, Ulidii. At this time they possessed only that portion of the province of Ulster lying east of the River Bann and Gleann-Righe.) to keep it with themselves. And the Ui Neill and the Oirghialla came to a certain water and the river swelled against them so that they were not able to cross it in consequence of the greatness of the flood. When the flood had subsided these hosts united on terms of peace, i.e. the Ui Neill and the Ulta, to bring the body of Patrick with them. It appeared to each of them that each had the body conveying it to their respective territories, so that God separated them in this manner, without a fight or battle. The body of Patrick was afterwards interred at Dun-da-let-glas with great honour and veneration; and during the twelve nights that the religious seniors were watching the body with psalms and hymns, it was not night in Magh-inis or the neighboring lands, as they thought, but as if it were the full undarkened light of day."







In the year 513 Cairpri Daimargit, son of Eocha, and king of Airgialla died and was probably succeeded in the kingship by one of the Airthir, Colga, son of Cluath.

From the time of its establishment until the final overthrow of Gaelic Ireland, Airgialla was subjected to the onslaughts of the Ui Neill from the west attempting to extend their kingdom. In this the Ui Neill were eventually successful and extended their sway over all of Ulster although their power fluctuated considerably as their kings were weak or strong. One of the early battles for northern supremacy occurred in 519, in which the forces of Colga, son of Cluath, King of Airthera (also said to be king of Airgialla), and Muirchertach MacErcá defeated the Ui Neill at the battle of Detna, in Droma-Bregh, and killed Ardgál, son of Conall, son of Niall.

From east of the Bann, the Airgiallans were sometimes menaced by the descendants of the earlier Ultonians and had to fight to defend their conquered territory. An early battle of this nature occurred in 576 when the Ulta attempted to recover their ancient fort of Emania near Armagh but were repulsed by the Airgiallans.

A great convention which was summoned by the high king of Ireland, Aedh, son of Anmíri, was held in 590 at Dromketh. This meeting of the most distinguished men of the country was called to consider three problems. The most serious problem was the disposition that should be made of the poets who numbered at this time almost one-third of the men of Ireland. These poets, or ollamhs, quartered themselves on the people and had become a serious economic problem. The second problem confronting the convention was the desire of King Aedh to place a tribute upon the Dal-Riada of Alba (Scotland). This territory had been colonized from Ireland and was a subject state which up until this time had the principal duty of assisting the high king in his wars. The third problem confronting the assemblage was to depose Sganlan Mor from the kingdom of Ossory for refusing to pay head-rent to the high king. Among the great men attending this convention were the following: Crimthann Kerr, king of Leinster; Maelduin, king of West Munster; Illann, son of Sganlan, king of Ossory; Guairi, king of clan Fiachra; Finghin, king of all Munster; Raghallach, king of Tuatha Taidin and Brefni Ui Ruairc, as far as Cliabán Moduirn; Kellach, king of Brefni Ui Raghallaigh; Conall Kenn-Maghair, king of Tir Conaill; Fergal, king of Ailech; Guairi, king of Ulidia; the two kings of Airgialla, namely, Daimhin, son of Aengus, who ruled the country from Clochar Desa to Finn-cairn, upon Sliabh-Fuaid, and Aedh, son of Duach Galach, who ruled from Finn-cairn on Sliabh-Fuaid to the Boyne. Clochar Desa was in the southern part of what is now County Tyrone and Aliabh-Fuaid was in what is now County Armagh.

Hearing of the great convention and the reasons for its assembly, Saint Columkille came over from Scotland







to intercede for the various defendants. Due to his intercession with the members of the Convention, the number of poets in Ireland was merely reduced and each chief or king required to maintain only one ollamh. Sganlan Mor was not restored to his kingship by the high king but with the assistance of Columkille made his escape and returned to Ossory where he resumed his lordship undisturbed by the monarch. When indulgence to the Del-Riada was demanded, Aedh refused and thereupon Columkille declared them forever free from the Irish yoke.

In the year 594, Aedh, king of Ireland, marched with his troops into the province of Leinster in an attempt to collect the Borumhan tribute from the people of that territory. While Aedh's army was in camp there, a Leinster chieftain disguised as a leper entered for the purpose of spying on the king's army. The monarch, however, suspected the leper's authenticity and sent Dubhduin, chief of Airgialla, with his forces to Buniff and Cruaidhabhdhall to prevent the Leinstermen from surprising the camp. In the battle of Dun-bolg which followed, the king and some of his nobles were killed, among whom was Beg, son of Cuanach, Lord of Airgialla.

While the territory of Airgialla was covetously eyed by the Ui Neill, the strength of the Airgiallans must have deterred the Ui Neill from any protracted warlike endeavors. The Irish annals, which record most of the wars and hostings are silent on this subject as concerning the Airgiallans for quite a period. The acquisition of Armagh with its ecclesiastical supremacy was a prize which the Ui Neill were desirous of seizing but the men of Airthir were able to stem the onrushing Ui Neill for several centuries. It appears probable that the downfall of Airthir as a dominant force in Ulster was finally brought about by the invasion of the Danes in the ninth century.

Aedh, son of Colgan, chief of Airgialla and of all the Airthir, died on his pilgrimage, at Cluain-mic-Nois in 609. This chieftain had his abode on an island in Loch-da-damh (Lake of the Two Oxen) which is unidentified at this time. Of this lake it was said that it was nothing but splendor during the time of Aedh who placed a brilliant house upon it.

The Annals of Ulster give the following for the year 624. "A year of darkness. Aedhan, son of Cumuscach, and Colman, son of Comgellan, pass to the Lord: and Ronan, son of Tuathal, king of the Airthera, and Mongan, son of Fiachna, die.

The church of Cluain-airthir today-  
Famous the four on whom 'twas closed-  
Cormac (the mild), through suffering,  
And Illann son of Fiacha.

And the other pair,  
Whom many tribes obeyed-  
Mongan, son of Fiachna Lurgan,  
And Ronan, son of Tuathal."







Another prominent chieftain of Airthir who became king of Airgialla was Maclodhar Caech. His reign appears to have been a peaceful and prosperous one and he died a natural death in 640. No further events of interest concerning Airgialla are noted in Irish annals until the year 675 when mention is made of the slaying of Dunchadh, son of Ultan, chief of Airgialla, by Maelduin at Dun Forgo.

During this period and for some centuries to come, the men of Airgialla practically monopolized the ecclesiastical succession to the primacy of Armagh. In the latter part of the seventh century, Flann-Febla, a member of one of the regal families of Airthir, succeeded Seghence in the Primacy. This prelate, assisted by the abbot of Sayghir and forty other bishops, held a synod in 695 whose canons were still extant in the seventeenth century. Flann-Febla died in 715 and was succeeded by Suibhne, son of Crunmael, who governed the see until his death in 730.

During the reign of the high king Loingsech, a great pestilence raged among the cattle of Ireland which was followed by a general famine throughout the country. This famine lasted for three years and it was reported that during this period people were forced to eat one another. Along with these calamities, there was a general spirit of unrest in Ireland which induced among other things, a war between the eastern and western parts of Airgialla. During this war, in the year 696, a battle was fought at Tulach Garraisc, in Fir Manach, wherein were slain Conchobhar Macha, son of Maelduin, lord of Airthir, and Aedh Aired, chief of Dalradia.

It was in the reign of the high king Fearghal that those three showers fell which caused great wonderment throughout the country. Those showers consisted of a shower of honey at Fothain Beg, a shower of silver at Fothain Mor, and a shower of blood in Magh-Lighen. After this monarch had been ten years in sovereignty over Ireland, he was slain in the battle of Almhain, by Dunchadh, son of Murchadh, and Aedh, son of Colgan, an heir presumptive to the kingship. This battle was fought in 721 with thirty thousand warriors on the battlefield. Of this number, twenty-one thousand were with the high king, and had been recruited mainly from the north, while the balance of nine thousand were the forces of the king of Leinster. Among the chiefs and leaders that fell in battle with Fearghal was Egnech, son of Colgan, lord of Airthir.

Following the death of the high king Flaithbertach, Aedh Ollan, son of Fearghal, obtained the sovereignty of Ireland and held it for nine years. Aedh Ollan was slain in 742 during the battle of Scred-nagh, in Meath. On this occasion, the high king's army suffered a serious defeat and lost several of their leaders, among whom were: Cumuscach, son of Conchobar, king of Airthir, Moenach, king of the Ui Cremthainn, and Muiredach, king of the Ui Tuirtri.







Following the death of Cumuscach, Congal, son of Egnach, was elected by the Airthera to be their king. He led the men of Airthir to a victory over the Ui Tuirtri in 744. During this battle, which was fought in the northern part of County Armagh, one of the chiefs of the Ui Tuirtri was slain and the other escaped by flight. Three years later, Congal was slain at Rathescla by Donnob, son of Cubreatan. It was during this same year, 747, that snow of an unusual quantity fell in Ireland so that almost all the cattle in the country were destroyed. This unusual snowfall was followed by a severe drought which caused great distress throughout Ireland.

No further events concerning the Airthera are chronicled for almost thirty years. Very probably they were living in a prosperous peace for it was during this period of time that Irish schools and learning were foremost in the western world. Scholars attended the universities from the civilized parts of western Europe and Irish priests performed missionary work through most of Europe. Among the famous schools in Ireland at that time was the University at Armagh which was in the territory of Airthir.

Peace was broken in 775 when a battle was fought between the men of Airthir and the men of Iveagh, at Ath-Dumha in what is now County Down. The Airthera were victorious and slew Gormgal, leader of their foes. Four years later Irish annals note that Colgu, son of Cellach, broke a battle upon the Airthera, during the course of which many ignoble persons were slain. This, no doubt, refers to the warriors serving with Colgu.

In the year 790, Donnghal, son of Bochall, King of the Airthera died and nine years later the annals record a destructive battle among the Airthera themselves. This was the battle fought at Magh-Lingsen during which Maelochtaraigh, abbot of Daire-Eithnigh, and Connal, son of Cernach, were slain. Magh-Lingsen has been tentatively identified as being a plain in what is now the baronies of Orior in County Armagh.

In 820, an army was led by Conchobhar, son of Donnchadh, into Airthir and the country devastated as far as Armagh.

Disputes and contests during the first half of the ninth century were not confined to the lay chieftains, but the clergy themselves, especially at Armagh, were involved in unclerical disputes. The succession of abbots and bishops was interfered with during these feuds which may have been inspired by the Ui Neill in their attempt to obtain control of the Armagh Primacy. Eoghan Mainistrech, and Airtri, son of Conchobhair, the immediate predecessors of Forannan, were in continual warfare. Airtri was in alliance with Feidhlimidh, of Cashel, and had the support of Cumasgach, son of Cathal, lord of the Airgialla, who was his half brother; Eoghan, on the other hand, appears to have had the support of Niall Caille, who later became high-king of Ireland. In 826 or 827,







Cumasgach drove Eoghan forcibly from Armagh, and put Airtiri into his place. Nevertheless, Eoghan recovered his bishopric that same year, following the battle of Leithcam. It was in this battle that Cumasgach was defeated and slain by Niall Caille after which Niall sustained Eoghan in the bishopric for some years. However, in about 830, Eoghan was plundered and his cattle carried off or killed by Conchobhair, king of Ireland, who appears at that time to have been in alliance with Feidhlimidh of Cashel.

The battle of Leithcam may well have been one of the turning points in the history of Ulster. For this battle, which was fought for the bishopric of Armagh, Niall assembled the fighting men of the races of Conall and Eoghan, otherwise known as the Ui Neill. To oppose this great fighting force, Cumusgach, lord of Airgialla, and Muirdeadhach, lord of Ui Eathach Uladh, mustered the Airgialla and Ulidians. In the spirited battle fought about three miles east of Armagh, the Airgialla gained a victory over the troops of Ailech on the first two days. However, on the third day, when Niall himself entered the fray, the Airgialla were defeated and great slaughter made of them by the victors. It was to foretell this battle that the Saint of Airigul prophesied:

Leithcam! great heroes shall perish there,  
They shall be caught at Leth-Luin, though  
far, though late, though slow.

Cumusgach and Conghalach, sons of Cathal, and many other nobles of the Airgialla were slain in this battle.





## Part II.

### From the Norse Invasions to the Norman Invasions

The Norse invasions began late in the eighth century and brought foreign strife and warfare to Ireland for two hundred years. These Norse invasions were particularly devastating to the north and east portions of the country. Inasmuch as the king of the Northmen made his headquarters in Armagh for a period of time, it seems likely that he inflicted a severe defeat on the Airthera from which they were slow to recover, and which afforded the kings of Ailech an opportunity to eventually extend their dominions farther to the east.

Unfortunately the Norse were not content to conquer and occupy a territory but they also destroyed churches, schools and libraries. Irish learning at that time was contained in handwritten manuscripts which the Northmen ruthlessly put to the flames. Consequently, the bulk of the history concerning Airgiolla was lost to posterity. The university at Armagh with an enrollment of seven thousand, prior to the Norse invasion, was one of the most famous in the world and its destruction was a severe blow to Irish learning.

The first Norse invasions took place on the southern coast of Ireland which were followed by other landings on the eastern and northern coasts. These first invasions appear to have been prey hunting expeditions under independent chieftains. However, about the year 831, a great fleet under the command of Turgesius arrived off the northern coast of Ireland and plundered the country inland as far as Armagh. Turgesius was recognized by all the Norsemen then in Ireland as their leader and he established Armagh as the seat of his government. The initial resistance of the Airthera to the invaders must have been strong as the foreigners found it necessary to attack and plunder Armagh three times in one month before they were able to obtain its possession. In a short time the Northmen were able to control most of the northern and eastern parts of Ireland over which they established a tyrannical sway.

During the Norse rule in parts of Ireland they exacted many tributes of vassalage from the Irish. Probably the most odious of the taxations was the "nose tax," so-called because they demanded an ounce of gold for every man of the Irish and, if this were not forthcoming, the man's nose was forfeited.

Turgesius was limited to secular control of north-eastern Ireland for a few years but in the year 841 he succeeded in banishing the bishop and clergy from the country around Armagh. Thereupon, he assumed the full authority and jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical see of Armagh. He ruled the defeated Irish with an iron hand until he was captured and killed by Maelsechlainn in





845 for which feat Maelsechlainn was elected high-king of Ireland. Following the death of Turgesius, the extent of the Norse rule declined and eventually the northmen were restricted to a few small areas near the coast.

Possibly to secure an ally who might aid in expelling the Norsemen from Ulster, Godfráidh, son of Fearghus, chief of Airgialla, went over to Alba (now Scotland) in the year 835 to strengthen the Dal-Riada, at the request of Kenneth Mac Alpin.

Events of interest for the next few years are given by the annals in brief style. In 851, Fogartach, son of Maelbresail, king of the Airgialla, died. In 862, Aedh, son of Cumascach, king of Uí Niallain, died; and Muiredhach, son of Maelduin, vice-abbot of Armagh, and king of the Airthera, was slain by Donnall, son of Aedh, son of Niall. In 874, Conghalach, son of Finnachta, lord of Airgialla, died.

During the reign of the high king Flann, Armagh was plundered twice. On the first occasion, the Norse destroyed a great part of the city and carried many of the inhabitants into captivity. In the year 879, Flann, himself, with his Irish troops and reinforcements from the Norse plundered Armagh. During his expedition into this part of Ireland, Flann defeated the men of Ailech and took hostages from the Uí Neill. In one of the battles fought at this time Lorcan, son of Coscrach, lord of the Uí Niallain, and Donnagan, son of Fogartach, lord of Fir Manach, mutually fell by each other.

The spirit of unrest that pervaded the rest of Ireland was also evident in Airgialla where Maelpadraig, son of Maelcuararda, king of Airgialla, was slain by his own associates in 884.

The annals mention an incident for the year 893 in which Maelagraí, son of Gairbhith, lord of the Airthera was slain by Amalghaidh, son of Eochaidh. This was probably a local quarrel resulting in an isolated battle during which the lord of the Airthera was slain by his enemies.

While Niall Glun-dubh, from whom the O'Neills of Tyrone derived their family name, was king of Ailech he was embroiled in numerous disputes with the men of Airthir. During a border incident in 907, the Airthera captured one of Niall's adherents. This captive later escaped and took refuge in the cathedral at Armagh where, according to Gaelic custom, he was safe from his pursuers. Nevertheless, Cernachen, son of Duilgen, tanist of Airthir, perpetrated sacrilegious violence by removing this captive from the cathedral and drowning his victim in Loch-Cirr which lies west of Armagh. Five years later, Niall had his revenge when he seized Cernachan and drowned him in the same lake as a punishment for the earlier crime. In 913 Niall concluded a peace





with Aedh, king of Ulster, and in consequence of that treaty, Niall felt secure enough at home to go on a hosting into Meath. Niall's army, strengthened by the men of Airgialla, went into camp at Grellach-Eillte from where a large party was sent out to forage for corn and firewood. This party was overtaken by the men of Meath and the invaders lost 45 men including Flannacan, royal-heir of Airgialla. The following year Niall became high king of Ireland and after reigning three years, he was defeated and slain during the battle of Athcliath by the Norsemen under the leadership of Sitric. This Norse chieftain had recently arrived in Ireland with a great fleet and taken possession of the country around Ath-Cliath (Dublin). For the task of expelling the invaders, Niall assembled all the men of Ulster and advanced on the Norse who were encamped near what is now Dublin. In the defeat that was inflicted on the Ulstermen during the battle fought on October 17, 917, many nobles and warriors were killed among whom was Maelcraebi O'Dubsinnaigh, king of Airgialla.

The Annals of Ulster note that Muredach, son of Donhnall, tanist-abbot of Armagh, died in 924, and that in the year 936, Joseph, abbot of Armagh, and Maelpatrick, son of Maeltuile, superior of Armagh, rested in old age.

Concerning the ecclesiastical succession at Armagh, Stuart's Historical Memoirs of Armagh makes the following comment:

"Henceforth, and down to the beginning of the twelfth century, the accounts of the succession to the see of Armagh are greatly confused and very obscure. It had already got into possession of one powerful family, the members of which held it for about 200 years, reckoning from the death of St. Maelbrigid, who died in 926 or 927, until the accession of the great St. Malachy. This family was most probably that of the dynasts of the district of Armagh, whose ancestor, Daire, had granted to St. Patrick the ground on which the church and other religious buildings in the city had been erected. And it is remarkable, that the two first bishops of this long succession, viz., Joseph and Mael Patrick, are styled princes of Armagh; a title which strongly indicates that they were really chieftains as well as bishops of the city. After them care was taken the see should not be conferred except on members of the ruling family. It seems, however, that these lay usurpers retained regular bishops to act for them as suffragans, while they enjoyed the church livings; and hence we find in the subsequent period several persons called by some writers bishops of Armagh, and omitted by others." In this discussion, Stuart was quoting from Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History of Ireland and adds his own comment that to assert that prince sig-





nifies chieftain in the above is specious but groundless as the term is commonly used in the Annals of Ulster.

In 932 Celican, son of Gairbhith, king of the Airthera died and in 948 Foghartach, son of Donnacan, king of Airgialla, died in penitence, according to entries in Irish annals.

In 957 Muiredach, son of Fergus, of Slieve Gullion, located in what is now upper Orior barony, county Armagh, became archbishop of Armagh. He retired, or was deposed, in 965 and died the following year.

In 962, Eicnech, son of Dalach, king of Airgialla, and his son, Dubhdara, were slain by his brother, Murchad, son of Dalach. This latter event probably took place during high king Domhnall's warlike venture into Airgialla for which he brought boats over the Blackwater to Loch Ennel and plundered the islands in the lake. The Airgiallans retaliated in 973 by defeating Domhnall at the battle of Cill-Mona in the county of Meath. The men of Airgialla were aided by the Norsemen in this battle and were victorious over the Ui Neill although losing their king, Donnucan, son of Maelmuire. The Airgiallans repeated their triumph over the men of Ailech four years later by gaining a victory in a naval battle fought on Loch Erne. The king of Ailech, Niall Ua Canannain, was slain during this battle.

In the year 980 Domhnall Ua hAitedidh, lord of Ui Eachach, and Loingseach, son of Foghartach, chief of Ui Niallain, mutually fell by each other.

The first notice of a man who assumed the surname of O'Hanlon appears in the year 983. This was Flaithbheartach Ua hAnluain, lord of Ui Niallain, who was treacherously slain by the Ui Breasail. Flaithbheartach was the son of Diarmaid, who was son of Aedh, son of Brian, son of Anluan, from whom the family name is derived. Anluan was eleventh in descent from Niallan from whom the tribe of Ui Niallain was descended. Previous to this time, an individual had only a given name and was known as the son of, son of, etc., which made family pedigrees highly important. The family of O'Hanlon thus named was one of the chief families of the clan Ui Niallain to which they contributed many chiefs and it was also one of the royal families of the larger area covered by the district of Airthir. Eventually, as Airthir was reduced in size by more powerful neighbors, the designation came to apply only to the district occupied by the O'Hanlons and a little later the terms Orior (Airthir) and O'Hanlon's Country were synonymous.

The annals note that in 985 there was a great contention at Armagh on the Sunday before Lammass between the Ui Eachach and the Ui Niallain, during the course of which the son of Trenfhear, son of Celechan,





and many others were slain. In 988, Echmilidh, son of Ronan, king of Airthir, was killed by the Conailli. The Airgiallans retaliated in 998 and killed Gillachrist Ua Cuilennain, lord of Conailli. That same year the Airgiallans lost their king, MacEicnigh, son of Dalach, in a battle with Ua Ruairo.

Brian Boru seized the sovereignty of Ireland from Maelsechlainn in 1001 and with all the forces of southern Ireland marched to Dundalk. There he was met by the Ulidians, Ui Neill and Airgiallans under Aedh O'Neill and Eocaidh who refused to permit any further advance. No battle was fought at this time nor were hostages given as the two armed hosts separated under a truce. The following year Brian again marched into Ulster and took hostages from all the north when Aedh O'Neill failed to give him battle. This indication of weakness in the northern chieftains was due to a lack of unity which manifested itself in the year 1003 when the Cinel Eoghain, or men of Ailech, engaged in open warfare with the Ulidians under Eocaidh. The battle fought at Craebh Tulcha was disastrous to both armies and the two chieftains were killed together with a great number of the Ulster nobles on both sides who were engaged in the fighting. King Brian took immediate advantage of this discord which disrupted all of Ulster and assembled his troops and marched into the north. Brian proved his supremacy by carrying off hostages from Ulidia, Ailech and all the north except the country of the Cinel Conaill, now the county of Donegal. While on this expedition into the north, Brian visited the cathedral in Armagh where he laid an offering of twenty ounces of gold on the altar.

Brian is noted in history for the peace and prosperity which he brought to Ireland and for his defeat of the Norse at Clontarf in 1014. For two hundred years Ireland had been in a state of almost constant warfare with the Norse and the morale and fortunes of the Irish had deteriorated to a very low point. Through Brian's tact and skill in uniting most of the Irish and defeating the Norse, Ireland underwent a revitalizing period. During his reign, good government stabilized the country and an immense amount of construction and rebuilding took place. Though he was slain at the battle of Clontarf, Brian's army totally defeated the Norse and relieved the Irish forever of that bondage. With Brian at the battle of Clontarf were men from all of Ireland except Ailech and Ulidia. The Airgiallans under Ua Cearbhall (O'Carroll) and Mac Uidhir (Maguire) were the only warriors from Ulster that fought with Brian in the defeat of the Norse. The chronicler of the battle of Clontarf states that Ua Cearbhall and Mac Uidhir were the two most illustrious Irishmen that graced the field on that day.







In 1021, Aedh Ua hInnrechtaigh, king of Ui Meith, was slain by the Ui Niallain which was followed by a predatory excursion into Airthir by the son of Aedh O'Neill. Although they considerably outnumbered the warriors with O'Neill, the Ui Niallain and their allies were defeated and many were slain in the battle fought in the middle of Armagh. In the following year, the Ulidians under their king, Niall, made a great slaughter of the Airgialla at Sliabh-Fuaid. The same year, Mac-leighinn, son of Cearbhall king of Airgialla, died. In 1024, Maelduin Ua Conchaille, king of the Ui Niallain, was slain by the Ui Doctain.

Cathalan Ua Crichain, lord of Fir Manach and of the Airgialla in general, and Culocha Ua Gairbhith, lord of Ui Meith, slew each other in a battle fought in 1027. No doubt this local quarrel was another instance of the unrest that disrupted Airgialla and made it an easier prey for the Ui Neill. In the year 1032, Airthir was menaced by the Ulidians and the men of Airgialla gained a victory over the invaders at Druim-Beannchair (now Drumbanagher, about seven miles from Newry, on the road to Tanderagee).

Archu Ua Celechain, lord of Ui Breasail, and Ruaidhri Ua Lorcaín, lord of Ui Niallain, were slain at Craebh-caille, by the men of Ui Eathach (living in what is now the barony of Armagh) under their chief, Muireadhach Ua Ruadhacain, in 1037. Four years later the men of Airgialla undertook a preying expedition into Connelli, but they were repulsed and routed by the Connelli at Magh-da-chainneach. In 1047 the Airgiallans accompanied the Ui Neill into Breagha where they slew Madadhan Ua hIffernain, chief of Clann Creccain. In 1048 Gillacolum Ua Heighnigh, chief king of Airgialla died and was buried at Dun-da-leathghlas.

In the year 1050 there was a conflict between the Airgialla and the men of Magh-Itha in which Eochaidh Ua hossein was slain. Results of this battle are not known but probably it was only a minor affair which had little or no effect on the peoples involved.

In the years 1053 and 1054, the fortunes of war favored the Airgialla and they gained victories over their enemies. On the first occasion the Airgialla under their king, Leathlobhar, son of Laidhgnen, made a predatory excursion against the Gailenga and the fugitives of the men of Meath and Breagha and carried off many cows and prisoners. Immediately the Gailenga went in pursuit of them and overtook the cattle spoil of the Airgiallans. However, Domhnall, lord of Fir Manach, escorting the cattle home, successfully resisted his pursuers and slew their leader and many of his warriors. During the following year, the Airgiallans





again led by Leathlobhar defeated the Uí Neill and slew Aedh, royal heir of Ailech. In this same year, the Uí Niallain lost their king when Dubhghall Ua hAedhagain was killed by Ua Laithen. It should be noted that cattle formed the nucleus of Irish economy at this time and for several hundred years this situation remained unchanged.

The Airthera in 1057 defeated the Uí Eachach under their chief, Gilla-Crist Ua Faelchon. On this occasion the Airthera were probably aiding Ruadhri Ua Ruadhacain in a personal quarrel with his clansmen. Two years later, Airthir was the scene of a predatory excursion successfully conducted by MacIseachlainn Ua Madadhain. He slew Gillamuire Mac Airechtaigh, steward of Clann Sinaigh, and carried off three hundred cows.

Toirdhealbhach, grandson of Brian Boru, was recognized in 1064 as high king by most of Ireland with the exception of Ulster. In 1075, Toirdhealbheach assembled his supporters for a hosting into Ulster in an effort to force from the Ulstermen a recognition of his assumed sovereignty. The warriors of Airgialla hastened to meet the oncoming foe and inflicted a disastrous defeat on the invaders at Ard-Monann and slaughtered great numbers.

Ailbhe, wife of the king of Airthir and successor of St. Moninne, died in the year 1077. As successor of St. Moninne, Ailbhe was abbess of Cill-Sleibhe, or Killeavy, near Newry, in what is now the county of Armagh. This same year, Ua Celechain, royal heir of Airthir was slain and in the following year the chief king of Airgialla, Leathlobhar Ua Laighnen, was slain by Ruadhri Ua Ruadhacain, and Dubesa, daughter of Amhalgaidh, successor of Patrick, wife of the king of Air thir, died.

There was another series of battles in 1086 and the Airthera defeated the Uí Eachach and killed their leader, Domhnall Ua hAiteidh: the Ulidians defeated the Airgiallans at the battle of Eochaille and slew Cumasgach Ua Laithen, lord of Sil-Duibhthire, and Gilleamoninne Ua Eochadha, lord of Clann Sinaigh, together with many of their followers; and, the Conailli-Muirtheimhne slew Ua Baigheallain, lord of Airgialla.

In 1093, the Conailli-Muirtheimhne again defeated the warriors of Airgialla and slew their chief, Aedh Ua Baigheallain. The Ulidians in 1094 made a great slaughter of the Airthera and many of the nobility fell together with Ua Fedacain and Mac Aenghusa. It was in this year that Ireland experienced very severe weather from which arose a great dearth. In the year 1096, Flann Ua hAinbhidh, lord of the South of Airgialla, died in peace and Cu-Uladh Ua Celeachain, royal heir of Airgialla, was killed by the Ulidians.





# ULSTER 1100 A.D.



*Present County Divisions shown by dotted lines*





In the last year of the eleventh century, Ruaidhri Ua Ruadhacain, lord of the eastern part of Airgialla and royal scion of Ireland, died in the forty-fifth year of his reign. He is described as the most distinguished of the dynasts of Ireland.

In the first year of the new century, 1100, a great Leinster army made a predatory excursion into Ulster as far as Sliabh Fuaid. This army burned and devastated Airgialla, Ui-Meith and Fir-Rois. The following year, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall, lord of Meath, went on a war-like venture into Fir Manach and Connille and took an immense booty of cows. However, Cucaisill Ua Cearbhall, lord of Fir Manach and Airgialla, pursued and overtook one of the raiding parties at Airgedgleann. In the battle that followed, the invaders were routed with the loss of most of their fighting men. This same year, the king of Ulster, Muirkertach Ua Lochlainn, granted several townlands to the monastery at Newry.

In 1111 Donnchadh Ua hAnluain, lord of Ui Niallain, was treacherously killed by his kinsmen. However, before the end of twenty nights, these kinsmen were captured and put to death by Ua hAnluain's clansmen.

A further extension of Ui Neill power was made in 1113 when Domnall Ua Lochlainn with the men of Cinel Eogain and Cinel Connill assisted by the Airgiallans made a hosting into Uladh. Ua Lochlainn expelled Donnchadh from the sovereignty of Uladh and divided Uladh between Ua Mathgamna and the sons of Donnsluibhe. Dalradia and Ui Eachach Cobha (now the barony of Iveagh in county Down) were retained however by Ua Lochlainn. Donnchadh appealed to Muirchertach Ua Brianin, high king of all Ireland except the north, for assistance in expelling the Ui Neill. Muirchertach, with his army of Munstermen met the Ulstermen under Ua Lochlainn at Magh-Cobha. However, Ceallach, successor of St. Patrick, mediated a peace between the two armies. In defiance of the peace treaty, Ua Mathgamna seized Donnchadh and blinded him, whereupon Ua Brianin marched his army to Grenog and again confronted the Ulstermen under Ua Lochlainn. The two armed hosts faced each other for a month but were dissuaded from fighting by Ceallach, who finally brought about an agreement for a year's peace between the opposing leaders.

In 1126 a preying expedition was led into Airthir by Ruadhri Ua Tuachair. This raiding party devastated the country as they passed through and secured a large booty. Before the invaders could make their getaway, they were overtaken by the men of Airthir who beheaded the leader and slew most of his followers. The Airthira in 1127 captured the house of Flann, son of Sinach, in the Third of the Saxons, in Armagh, from Raghnaill, son of Mac Riachaigh, who was beheaded by the





victors. Also in this same year, Gillachrist Ua hEighnigh, king of Fir Manach and Airgialla, died in Clochar-mac-Daimhine, after choice penance. In 1128 the Airgiallans accompanied the Uí Neill under Ua Lochlainn on a hosting into Magh-Cobha where they seized hostages from the Uí Eachach Cobha. This warlike venture was continued into East Meath and to the Feara-Breagh where they were defeated and lost a number of their fighting men. This host under Ua Lochlainn committed a great crime before God and men with the burning of Ath-truim and its churches in which a great multitude died in the flames. Following this act of violence, Ua Lochlainn marched his army home without having obtained the peace of God or of men.

St. Ceallach, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, died at Ardpatrick in 1129. When Ceallach felt death approaching, he exhorted the princes of the country to choose Malachy as his successor in the primacy. Notwithstanding this, on Ceallach's death, his cousin, Muirkertach, usurped the see which he ruled as a tyrant for three years. Muirkertach's assumption of the primacy was a continuation of the monopoly over the see by a single princely family, thought to be the clan of Uí Sinaich, a branch of the Uí Eachach living in what is now the barony of Armagh.

Following the death of Brian Boru at Clontarf, the high kingship of Ireland was resumed by Maelsechlainn who ruled until his death in 1022. The Uí Neill succession to the monarchy, which had lasted for six centuries, ended with Maelsechlainn. The kings of Ireland that followed him were kings with opposition and did not enjoy regal power throughout the country. Henceforth, until the Norman invasion, Ireland was divided into seven independent kingdoms, any one of which might temporarily acknowledge the supremacy of a neighboring prince who gained sufficient strength to enforce his ambitions. The seven kingdoms existing at this time were: Ailech, Ulidia, Airgialla, Connacht, Meath, Leinster and Munster. The Uí Neill rulers of Ailech were generally acknowledged as kings of Ulster by the Ulidians and Airgiallans although their overlordship required a constant demonstration of superior strength. Annalistic events record the provincial quarrels and struggle for power that existed in Ireland and retarded establishment of a strong central government. The events affecting Airgialla indicate its semi-independence at this date. In 1136, Conchobhar, son of Domhnall Ua Lochlainn, who was first lord of Ailech and king of all the north, including Cinel-Conaill, Cinel-Eogain, Airgialla and Ulidia, and royal heir of Ireland, was treacherously killed by the men of Magh-Itha. Toirdhealbhach Ua





Conchobhair, claimant to the high-kingship, made a hosting against Ua Maeleachlainn in 1138. For this hosting, the king mustered the forces of Connaught, Breifne and the Airgiallans under Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall. For the defense of his lands, Ua Maeleachlainn recruited the men of Meath and Leinster and received substantial reinforcements from the Norsemen along the coast. The two armies met at Craebh-Maighe Loraigh and set up camps separated by only a pass through a small wood. They remained in this position for a week without coming to battle and then separated without Ua Conchobhair receiving hostages from Ua Maeleachlainn.

Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall, king of Airgialla, founded the famous Cistercian abbey of Mellifont, near Drogheda, in 1142. Ua Cearbhall was prompted to do this pious deed by St. Malachy who was head of the Irish ecclesiastical hierarchy at the time. Monks for the new abbey were supplied from Clairvaux whither Malachy had sent some Irishmen for training.

In the year 1145, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall marched against the people of Ua Maeleachlainn and burned Treoit wherein threescore persons perished in the flames. This same year there was dissension in Ailech and the Cinel Conaill were victorious over the Cinel Eogain in a battle fought for the tribal chieftainship. In a second hosting made by the Cinel Conaill against the Cinel Eogain, they were joined by the warriors of Airgialla under their king, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall. The Cinel Conaill were again victorious and the victors banished Ua Gormleadhaigh from his chieftainship and established the son of Niall Mac Lochlainn as chief of Cinel Eogain. Ua Maeleachlainn revenged himself on the Airgiallans this year by a predatory excursion to Cuailgne from where he made off with a booty of cows. In 1146 there was a great windstorm in Ireland which destroyed forests and killed a great many people.

In 1147 the Airgiallans under their king, Ua Cearbhall, accompanied the Cinel-Eogain on a hosting into Ulidia. This army defeated the Ulidians and plundered and burned Leath-Chathail and returned home carrying hostages from the Ulidians. During the following year, the fierce tribal warfare continued with the Airgiallans first fighting on one side and then on the other. Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall first allied his warriors with the men of Cinel-Eogain on a hosting into Ulidia wherein the invaders subdued the country and carried off hostages from the Ulidians. A little later, the Airgiallans and Ulidians united against the Cinel-Eogain which prompted another expedition into Ulidia by the Cinel-Eogain. On this occasion, the Uí Neill expelled Cuuladh Ua Duinnsleibhe from his kingship and placed Donnchadh in his place. Cuuladh appealed to Ua Cearbhall for aid







in regaining his throne and Ua Cearbhall responded by marching his army, reinforced by Ua Ruairc, into Ulidia and restoring Cuuladh to his throne. However, Cuuladh was expelled shortly afterwards by his own subjects. The constant warfare in Ulster was a source of great concern to Malachy, primate of Ireland, and he arranged a meeting at Armagh in the latter part of 1148 between the northern chieftains. Terms of peace were agreed upon and the kings of Airgialla, Ulidia and the other northern countries gave hostages to Muirkertach Ua Lochlainn, king of Cinel-Eogain, in token of their submission. Similar hostings and predatory excursions in which the Airgiallans accompanied Ua Lochlainn continued for two years, after which Ua Lochlainn was acknowledged high king by all of Ireland with the exception of Munster.

In 1155 Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall took a small group of followers to a conference with Tighernan Ua Ruairc at Cenannus. Ua Ruairc treacherously made a prisoner of Ua Cearbhall and held him captive for over a month on an island in Loch Sighlen. Aided by his confederates, the king of Airgialla overpowered and killed the guards and made his escape from the island prison. The following year the men of Cinel Eogain and Airgialla went on a hosting into Ossory where they compelled the nobles there to acknowledge the sovereignty of Ua Lochlainn. There was a great crop throughout Ireland this year, which was the first great crop for nine years.

A synod was held in 1157 which was attended by the primate, seventeen other bishops, the high king, and the provincial kings of Airgialla, Ulidia and Breifne, together with a great number of the lesser clergy and nobility as well as a great number of the common people. This synod was held in the abbey of Mellifont and after the primate had solemnly consecrated the abbey church, the lay princes consulted with the bishops on the conduct of Donogh O'Melaghlin, prince of Meath, who had become the common pest of the country. A short time prior to the synod, this man had murdered a neighboring chief in violation of previous guarantees and O'Melaghlin had usurped the kingdom of Meath with the aid of Diarmaid Mac Murcadha, king of Leinster. In addition, O'Melaghlin was noted as a "cursed atheist." This "bad man" was accordingly excommunicated by the synod and sentence of deposition pronounced against him by the monarch and the other princes. Thereupon, Donogh's brother, Dermot, was made king of Meath in his place. At this synod, the high king granted land, cows and sixty ounces of gold to the monastery. Ua Cearbhall, also, made a gift to the monastery of sixty ounces of gold.





The Connachtmen and their allies in 1159 made a preying expedition into Airgialla which was repulsed by the warriors of Ulster under the high king, Muirkertach Ua Lochlainn. In the battle fought at Ath-na-caisberna, the Ulstermen slaughtered great numbers of the invaders and took away a great cattle-spoil. A short time afterwards, Ua Lochlainn collected an army of his followers from Airgialla, Cinel-Eogain, Cinel-Conaill and Ulidia and made a hosting into Connacht where they burned Dun-Mor, Dun-Ciaraidhi and Dun-nan Gall. Ua Lochlainn devastated much of the country before returning home without peace or pledges. This same year, the king of Airthir, Murchadh Ua Ruadhacain, died. Commotion and disorder reigned in various parts of Ireland for the next two years during which Ua Lochlainn and the men of Ulster went on hostings into adjacent territories. In 1161 Ua Conchobair of Connacht gave pledges to Ua Lochlainn and reaffirmed his recognition of Ua Lochlainn's sovereignty.

The importance of the school at Armagh was demonstrated at the Synod of Clane in 1162 during which it was ordered that in the future only graduates of Armagh were to obtain the position of chief professor in a school attached to any church in Ireland. Such a decree indicated a recognition of Armagh as the national university of Ireland.

Ua Lochlainn was almost undisputed monarch of Ireland at this time and the first high king since 1022 to enjoy such nearly universal recognition of authority. However, he soon showed that he was unworthy of his high position and began harrassing the Ulidians by numerous preying expeditions into their country. On one of these expeditions, in 1165, Ua Lochlainn seized Mac Duinnsleibhe, king of Ulidia, and deposed him. After holding Mac Duinnsleibhe captive for a short time, Ua Lochlainn released him whereupon Mac Duinnsleibhe made his way to Ua Cearbhall, king of Airgialla. At this time, Ua Cearbhall was the special friend and supporter of Ua Lochlainn who held him in the highest esteem. Upon Ua Cearbhall's intercession, Ua Lochlainn was persuaded to restore Mac Duinnsleibhe to his throne but only upon ample guarantees of future good behavior and the giving of hostages, to which Ua Cearbhall was a party. Notwithstanding his oaths and promises, Ua Lochlainn in 1166 again descended on Ulidia and seizing Mac Duinnsleibhe cruelly put out his eyes. Enraged at this perfidy, Ua Cearbhall hurriedly raised an army and fell on the high king at Leitir-Luin in what is now the barony of Upper Fews in county Armagh. Although he had but few warriors with him, Ua Lochlainn gave battle to the Airgiallans but was defeated and slain. Following Ua Lochlainn's death, Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair led





an army into the north and took hostages from the Cinel-Conaill after which he proceeded to Ath-cliath and was inaugurated king of Ireland. Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall and the chieftains of Airgialla attended the inauguration and gave their hostages to Ua Conchobhair.

A great meeting was convened in 1167 by Ua Conchobhair at Ath-buidhe-Tlachtgha which was attended by many Irish leaders, both lay and ecclesiastic, among whom was Ua Cearbhall, king of Airgialla. There were thirteen thousand horsemen at this gathering, of which six thousand were from Connacht, four thousand from Breifne, two thousand from Meath, four thousand from Airgialla and Ulidia, two thousand from Leinster and one thousand Danes from Ath-cliath. Many good resolutions were passed at this meeting, respecting veneration for churches and clerics, and control of tribes and territories, so that women were able to traverse Ireland alone without fear. After this meeting there was a mustering of the men of Ireland for a hosting into Cinel-Eogain. Donnchadh Ua Cearbhall and the men of Airgialla accompanied Ua Conchobhair on this hosting into the land of the Ui Neill. On this expedition, Tir Eogain was divided by Ua Conchobhair into two parts: that part north of the mountain (Callainn) was given to Niall Ua Lochlainn and that part of Tir-Eogain south of the mountain was given to Aedh Ua Neill. Diarmaid Mac Murchadha (Dermot MacMurrough) returned from England this year with a small force of Normans and regained Ui Ceinnsealaigh, a part of his former kingdom of Leinster. Mac Murchadha had been banished the previous year from Ireland by Ua Conchobhair for abducting the wife of Ua Ruairc.





### Part III.

#### From the Norman Invasion to the Ulster Plantation

The first Norman invaders into Ireland from England created only mild excitement among the native chiefs. To them the few Normans appeared only as predatory warriors in search of booty and would return home of their own volition in a short time. The inter-tribal warfare was far more important to the Irish than the arrival of a few knights from across the channel.

Roderic O'Connor was recognized as high king by the men of Meath, Breifne, Airgialla, and Connacht and they came to his assistance when he resolved to enter Leinster and punish Mac Murcadha in 1169. Arriving near Ath-cliaith the Irish army was soon split by dissension and Ua Concobhair dispensed with the services of the Airgiallans and Ulidians under their kings, O'Carroll and O'Haughy. At that time, Donald O'Carroll died and was succeeded in the kingship of Airgialla by Murrough O'Carroll. Following the defection of the Ulstermen, O'Connor, though still superior in strength to Mac Murrough, entered into a peace treaty with his enemy and withdrew from Leinster.

In 1170, Richard de Clare, Earl of Strigul and Pembroke (commonly called Earl Strongbow) arrived from England to aid Mac Murrough and received the promised reward. He was followed the next year by Henry II, king of England, who made a circuit through the eastern part of Ireland and received homage from several of the Irish chiefs including O'Carroll of Airgialla. The passive manner in which the Irish accepted Henry's assumption of lordship is understood when it is recognized that they accepted the Pope's transfer of his lordship over the island to the English king. Possibly the anglicizing of Ireland would have been accomplished peaceably if the Norman invaders had been far-sighted administrators rather than warriors greedy for land. Following Henry's return to England, his lieutenants in Ireland immediately began seizing land from the Irish upon which the native chiefs rebelled and put armies into the field to defend their rights. The chiefs of Ulster refused to recognize Henry's authority to grant their homeland to John de Courcy and they were instrumental in the formation of a confederacy to expell the foreigners. This confederacy raised an army of 20,000 men in 1174 from Tir Eogain, Airgialla, Ulidia, Connacht and Meath under the leadership of O'Connor. Entering Meath the Irish army levelled to the earth the Norman castles which De Lacy had built there and cleared the district of the English colonists. However, instead of following up his advantage, O'Connor disbanded his army and returned home to Connacht.





The English adventurers continued to build their castles from which they sallied forth to prey on the neighboring Irish. One of the most avaricious of the Normans in this respect was Richard de Flanders whose castle of Slane was located in Meath. From this stronghold, it was the custom of Flanders to send forth raiding parties into the adjacent districts where they destroyed property, drove away the cattle, burned homes and murdered the inhabitants. Such outrages became unbearable and the natives appealed to the kings of Tir Eogain and Airgialla for assistance in their tragic plight. In 1176 the warriors from Tir Eogain and Airgialla united and entered Meath where they attacked and destroyed several English strongholds, including the castle of Slane. In the massacre that followed the taking of Slane, de Flanders was slain along with most of his warriors.

In the year 1177, John de Courcy, with a small force of armored men, marched into Ulster to take possession of the territory granted to him by King Henry. Entering Ulidia, de Courcy destroyed Dun-da-lethglas and erected a castle there from which he marched out to raid the surrounding area. In the same year, de Courcy defeated the Ulidians twice and the Cinel Eogain and Airgiallans once each. During the following year, however, de Courcy suffered battle reverses which proved that he was not invincible. One occasion is described as follows in the History of Dundalk by John D'Alton and J. R. O'Flanagan.

"The Irish--chiefly the sept of O'Hanlon--according to Hammer, "camped by south of Dundalk, and by north of the river Dundugan, when De Courcy, having marched to a place within a mile and a-half of the Irish camp, made a stand, with his brothere (in law) Sir Armoricus Tristram (ancestor of the noble family of St. Laurence, of Howth), Sir Roger Poer, and others, consulted what course was best to be held." On that council of war Sir Armoricus advised that "when the enemy hath descried us, we shall perceive by his array what he means to do. If they turn face to us, and offer to fight, our foot shall recover Dundalk afore them; and with our horses we will so handle the matter, that we shall sustain no great loss. If they fly, and take the river, the sea comes in, & we shall overtake them afore half pass. All were well pleased with his advice, & followed the direction. Nicholas St. Laurence, with his company, wheels before; Sir John de Courcy, at once followeth after, & Roger Poer takes the rereward. The enemy, having descried them, takes the river. Sir Nicholas gives the sign, whereupon the English army gave a great shout, and followeth on their heels; the Irish break their array;





they tumble one upon another in the water; the current drowns some; the sea and the swiftness of the tide take others away. Such as would not venture the water, were overtaken by the English. O'Hanlon, and his company, that had passed the water, seeing the carnage of his men, could not come to the rescue by reason of the salt water. The English horsemen overtook the foot of the Irish, and skirmished with them, until Sir John de Courcy came; by that time the sea, likewise, had stopped the Irish from flying, at a great water, a mile from the Lurgan, on the south side of Dundalk. The Irish, seeing themselves in this strait, turning their faces, choose rather to die with the sword, like men, than to be drowned in the seas like beasts." A desperate engagement ensued, in which Sir John de Courcy was again "sore wounded."--"The slaughter on both sides was great; few of the Irish, and fewer of the English, were left alive. The Irish got them to the Fews, and the English to Dundalk; but who got the best, there is no boast made."

It was in this year that Ireland experienced a wonderful, violent wind, which prostrated a very large portion of woods and forests and great oak trees were blown flat onto the ground.

In 1181 Hugh Mac Murrough, royal chief of Munster-Birn and the Airthir and the Cantred, was killed by MacMahon in treachery while they were at a meeting.

John de Courcy continued to strengthen his position in Ulidia and to harrass Airgialla and Ailech by prey hunting expeditions. In 1188 de Courcy's forces made a predatory excursion into Tir Eogain where they collected a large cattle booty. O'Loughlin, king of Ulster, assembled his warriors and pursued the invaders to Cavan-na-g-Crannard, a place near Armagh on the road to Newry. In the battle that followed, the English were defeated but the Irish lost their leader when O'Loughlin was slain by an Englishman's spear. During the following year, O'Mulroney was deposed as king of Fir Manach by his tribesmen whereupon he appealed to O'Carroll for assistance. Shortly afterwards a party of English on a preying expedition entered Airgialla and defeated the forces under O'Carroll and O'Mulroney and killed the latter. That same year, Armagh was plundered by de Courcy after which he burned a large portion of the town, including the Rath, Trian, and the churches from St. Bridget's Crosses to St. Bridget's Church. Murrough O'Carroll, arch-king of Airgialla, died in the monastery at Mellifont after choice penance.

Illustrating English cruelty to the native chiefs is their treatment of O'Carroll, king of Airgialla. Seizing this chief in 1191, they held him prisoner for a year and then putting out his eyes, they hanged him.





Family feuds and tribal warfare were continuous in Ulster at this period. The principality of Airgialla had lost a great deal of its earlier territory and included only what are now the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Fermanagh and Armagh. The increasing power of Ailech made it possible for its rulers to generally assume dominion over the neighboring sub-kingdom. The English invaders naturally concentrated on obtaining a foothold on the coast from which they could expand their holdings. One of the first areas to fall completely under the English was that section of Airgialla now known as the county of Louth and which the early invaders called English Oriel. That part of Airgialla now called the county of Monaghan was known to the early English as Irish Oriel. The O'Carrolls who were the chief kings of Airgialla during and immediately preceding the Norman invasion were eliminated early in the struggle by the foreigners.

The men of Airthir and Ulidia intermittently fought each other and occasionally united against their common foes, the Ui Neill and the English. Sporadic outbursts of violence and treachery mark their common history of which a typical event occurred in the year 1194. During this year the O'Hanlon treacherously slew the son of Magnus Mac Donlevy. Two years later, Roderic MacDonlevy, obtaining allies from the English and the men of Connacht, made a hosting into Tir Eogain and Airthir. However, the Cinel Eogain and Airthera met the invaders on the plain of Armagh and defeated them with great slaughter.

The Ui Neill in their kingdom of Ailech had two ruling branches: the descendants of Conall, or Cinel Conall, who lived in what is now county Donegal, and the descendants of Eogan, or Cinel Eogain, who lived in what is now the county of Tyrone. The king of Ailech was chosen from these two branches and as the Ui Neill extended their power the king of Ailech was acknowledged as the king of Ulster. However, there was intermittent warfare between the Cinel Conall and the Cinel Eogan which nevertheless did not become serious enough to prevent the Ui Neill from obtaining sovereignty over Ulster. Sometimes the men of Airgialla allied themselves with the Cinel Conall and sometimes with the Cinel Eogan.

Indicative of the northern feuds at that time is the entry in the Annals of Loch Ce for the year 1196: "Ruaidhri Mac Duinnsleibhe conducted a large army from Connacht, including the son of Maelisa O'Conchobhair, and the son of Mac Murchadha, grandson of Mael-na-mbo, and Brian Buidhe O'Flaithbhertaigh; but the Airgialla, and O'hAnluáin, and the chief men of the Cenel-Eoghain





assembled to meet them, viz:--two large battalions; and they gave one another battle, when this army was all slain there, along with the son of O'Conchobhair, and the son of Mac Murchadha, and the son of O'Flaith-bhertaigh; so that there escaped of them only Mac Duinnsleibhe with a few horses, and a very few of the army." In the above entry, it should be noted that O'Hanlon was sufficiently powerful to be mentioned separately from the rest of Airgialla.

The twelfth century ended and the thirteenth century began with continuing tribal feuds in which the Airgialla fought mainly with the Ui Neill against the encroachments of the English. In the year 1210 the English introduced English laws and customs into Ireland and divided that portion of the country under their control into counties, among which a portion of Airgialla near the coast was called the county of Louth. However, these counties extended no farther than English colonists had been able to secure and maintain their possessions against the native Irish.

In 1241, Donald Mor O'Donnell, king of Tir-Conaill, Fir-Manach, Cairpri, and Airgialla, died on the pillow, after bringing victory from the world and from the demon and he was buried in the Monastery of Es-ruadh. O'Donnell was succeeded as king of Airgialla by Patrick (Gilla-Patraig) O'Hanlon. The following year, Richard, the English Earl of Ulster, and William Vesey, Justiciary of Ireland, led an army into the north against O'Hanlon and other princes who were obstructing English expansion. Hostages were taken on this occasion by the invaders from O'Donnell.

Gilla Patrick O'Hanlon, king of Airgialla, was killed by an archer in a battle with the men of Connacht in the year 1243. Upon his death, Murrough O'Hanlon was elected king of Orior. Henry III summoned a number of Irish kings, including O'Hanlon, to attend him in an expedition against Scotland in 1244, although it's probable that the summons was neglected. The feud with the Ui Neill of Tir Eoghain was continued and Murrough was captured and imprisoned on the island of Loch-an-Drochaid. Through the miracles of St. Patrick, he was able to escape from his prison in the year 1245. However, during the following year Murrough O'Hanlon was killed by his enemies at the instigation of Brian O'Neill.

After many battles, Brian O'Neill was recognized as king of Ireland by all the chiefs of Ulster and Connacht. Two years later, in 1260, Brian led an army against the English at Dun-ca-lethghlas in what is now the county of Down. On that occasion the English scored a complete victory and killed Brian and many of





his principal chieftains including Cooley O'Hanlon and Neal O'Hanlon. Hugh O'Neill succeeded Brian as king of Tir Eoghain and Airgialla and allied his forces with the English in a hosting into Tir Conaill in 1265. This expedition was defeated by the men of Tir Conaill and the invaders were forced to return home without having obtained any hostages or booty.

Revenge for the murder of Murrough O'Hanlon was obtained twenty years afterwards with the slaying of Laughlin MacCann outside the court of the Lord Archbishop in Armagh by Eachmarcach O'Hanlon. In 1268 Eachmarcach, king of Airthir, was taken prisoner by the Constable of Ros-na-cairge, Walter de Marisco. That same year O'Hanlon escaped and fled back to his own country.

The ancient feud between the man of Ulidia and the men of Airgialla broke out again in 1269 and Eghmily MacCartan, chief of Kinelarty, in the county of Down, was slain by O'Hanlon. The war cry of O'Hanlon's clansmen when going into battles of this kind was "ardchully aboo."

Events recorded about this time indicate that the final dismemberment of the formerly great principality of Airgialla has taken place. The English had taken over the country of the O'Carrolls and named it County Louth. O'Hanlon was king of Airthir (anglicized Orior) and was allied more with the Ui Neill than with anyone else. Mac Mahon was king of the area now called the county of Monaghan and is the territory henceforth called Airgialla and referred to by the English as Irish Oriel. It appears probable that Orior included most of the county of Armagh although the exact boundaries of Orior probably fluctuated with the strength of the O'Hanlons.

After a hundred years, the English in Ireland were living, fighting and ruling in much the same manner as the native Irish. Great lordships were granted to adventurers by the king which were retained or lost on the battlefield. Nationalistic patriotism was almost as unknown to the invaders as it was to the Irish, and history has recorded Irish aiding the English against other Irish and vice versa. Each native chief and English lord was concerned solely with holding or extending his own domain. The English lords gave only nominal allegiance to the king in England and in numerous instances these lords conducted their affairs without reference to the crown. Consequently, the native chiefs felt themselves in far greater danger from these Normans in Ireland than from the king in England. In 1272 several of the Ulster chiefs attempted to obtain from the King a cessation of the continual harassment





from the English lords by reaffirming their loyalty to the king in England. A letter signed by the O'Neill, king of Cinel Eogain, Oghie O'Hanlon, king of Airgi-alla (correctly "Orior"), and other Ulster chieftains, was sent to King Edward I and stated that they were aiding the king's Seneschal against the rebels and prayed that Edward would not listen to charges against them.

In 1273, O'Hanlon and the Cinel Eogain invaded the constricted Airgi-alla and slew its king, Oghie MacMahon, together with a great many of his followers. A few years later, however, the ambitions of the O'Neill of Cinel Eogain brought them into conflict with O'Hanlon who was compelled to obtain help from the English under Ralph Peppard.

A little later, the O'Hanlons must have found the English encroaching too far for, in 1291, the Earl of Ulster and the Justiciary made an expedition into Ulster against O'Hanlon and the other chiefs who were hindering the peace.

In the latter part of the thirteenth century, Richard, Earl of Ulster, was the dominant Englishman in Ulster to whom the Irish chiefs in the north must pledge obedience and loyalty as to the king himself, and the Earl ruled his territory almost like an independent prince. Numerous administrative details in connection with their territories had to be cleared through the Earl, many of which required that the Irish chiefs had to visit the Earl to discuss the problems. In 1297, Cooley O'Hanlon, his brother, Angus MacMahon, and many other northern chieftains were returning from a formal visit to the Earl of Ulster when they were unexpectedly attacked by the English of Dundalk. Due to their superior numbers and the surprise of the attack, the English were able to slay the king of Orior, his brother, and many of the other chiefs and followers.

In 1306, Neal O'Hanlon was one of the Irish chiefs to whom Edward II wrote to request that they would attend him in his expedition to Scotland.

The power of the English crown had dropped considerably in Ireland by the close of the thirteenth century and English law and rule, as far as the crown was concerned, were acknowledged only in Dublin, Meath, Kildare, and a few other small areas. Colonists from England were so little protected by English authority that it became customary for these settlers to pay "black rent" to neighboring native chiefs. "Black rent" was a tax paid to the Irish chiefs to keep them from molesting the English. O'Hanlon was one of the chiefs that collected "black rent" and he levied it on an area extending from Dundalk to the north of Dublin. The colonists, of course, struggled against





this tax and occasionally sent out their own warring parties in retaliation. One such sortie was undertaken by the men of Dundalk in 1314 when they made a raid against O'Hanlon and slew two hundred of the Airthera. O'Hanlon retaliated and plundered Dundalk that same year and it is assumed that payment of the "black rent" was continued.

In 1315 Edward Bruce arrived from Scotland on his illfated attempt to become king of Ireland. It does not appear that O'Hanlon as chief of his clan joined with the other Ulster leaders in the rebellion against English rule. This is indicated by the fact that during the early period of Bruce's campaign in Ireland, he captured the son of O'Hanlon and sent him as a prisoner to Scotland, and also by the fact that the O'Hanlon attended parliament in 1315. However, their chief's failure to enter into rebellion was not popular with all the Airthera and the following year a kinsman, Richard O'Hanlon, led a foray against Dundalk. This effort to obtain provisions of war from the Dundalkers was repulsed by them with great loss to the Irish. It should be noted that when a man was elected tribal chieftain in Gaelic Ireland he did not use his given name afterwards. Henceforth, he was known as O'Hanlon, O'Neill, etc., depending on which clan he had assumed the leadership of, and therefore, in the above instance, it's probable that Richard O'Hanlon was leading part of the Airthera in opposition to the rest of the clan.

One of the requisites for tribal chieftainship among the Irish was physical perfection. This requirement arose from the necessity of the chief leading his clan in battle and, consequently, blindness or other physical defect barred a man from obtaining or retaining the chieftainship. This is illustrated in 1321 when the king of Orior, Magnus O'Hanlon, was blinded and emasculated by his kinsman, Neal O'Hanlon, son of Cooley. Neal thereupon assumed the chieftainship of the Airthera. Following this event, Neal was treacherously slain by the English of Dundalk.

On June 25th, 1325, Stephen, Archbishop of Armagh, informed the Apostolic See that he had published in his diocese the process against Louis, Duke of Bavaria, which the archbishop had received from the Pope at Avignon the previous year. He declared that he had called together the bishops of Derry, Clogher, and Dromore, and the clergy and laity of his diocese, into the Cathedral of Armagh, and had there caused to be publicly read the apostolic mandate, and explained both in English and in Irish, and had ordered his suffragans to publish it, in a similar manner, throughout







the province. This apostolic mandate was an act deposing Louis as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire which, however, was not observed in the empire. Donald O'Hanlon, king of Orior, signed Stephen's letter to the Pope as a witness.

During the early part of the fourteenth century the Earl of Ulster was not only the most powerful figure in Ulster, but through his possessions elsewhere, was probably the most powerful man in Ireland. He ruled Ulster almost independently of the king of England and native chiefs held their lordships and lands by military service of the Earl. Holding their lordships and lands from the Earl in this manner were Henry and Odo O'Neill, Rory Maguire, two MacMahons, O'Hanlon, MacCartan, O'Cahan, O'Floinn, and two MacGilmores. However, the whole de Burgo lordship which had reduced the proudest of the Irish to vassalage fell with the murder of William, Earl of Ulster, in 1333, and within fifty years, practically the entire province of Ulster was again under the control of the Irish.

John Darcy, Justiciary, summoned a number of Irish chiefs, including O'Hanlon, to attend him with arms and horses in an expedition to Scotland in 1335.

The conflict between the colonists of Louth and O'Hanlon over the payment of "black rent" was legally settled in 1335 with the signing of a public written compact. This compact was an agreement whereby the English settlers agreed to pay a yearly tribute for protection from the attacks of the natives. The king in 1341 ratified this treaty and established O'Hanlon's legal right to collect certain revenue every year from the English along the coast from Dundalk to Dublin.

The men of Orior in 1355 slew Aduig Mac Quillin according to entries in Irish annals. However, there is no explanation given for the deed. The next notice of the O'Hanlons as recorded in the annals is for the year 1376. It's noted in this year that Ruarcán O'Hamill, chief poet to O'Hanlon died. A chief's poet, or ollamh, was responsible for preserving the history and genealogy of the tribal chief and he performed a very important function. O'Hamill was also keeper of a house of hospitality to which all travelers were welcomed and entertained without charge. Public inns of this type were common in Ireland and were generally located at the junction of the more commonly traveled roads. Innkeepers were compensated for keeping an inn by being allotted large areas of land.

In the year 1380, Edmund, Earl of March, and by marriage, Earl of Ulster, came to Ireland as lord lieutenant. On his arrival, several of the native Irish princes paid court to him as their overlord. Among





those paying their respects to the Earl were Niall O'Neill, O'Hanlon and O'Reilly. The Earl made strenuous efforts to regain control of those areas in Ulster which belonged to the Earldom of Ulster. Several of the Irish chiefs, among them O'Hanlon, gave the Earl their assistance for a short time. In attempting to bring Magennis, lord of Iveagh, in County Down, under the rule of the Earl of Ulster, O'Hanlon and his English allies suffered a disastrous defeat. The lord of Orior and many of his warriors lost their lives during this battle. Magennis, however, was subdued by the Earl's followers a short time later.

The conflict in Orior which had been in evidence for many years between the English sympathisers and the faction favorable to O'Neill resulted in the murder of several O'Hanlons over a period of time. One of these probably occurred in 1391 when O'Hanlon, lord of Orior, was slain by his own kinsmen. It should be remembered that the increasing power of the O'Neill's was at the expense of the lesser chieftains. Consequently, it must have appeared to some of the O'Hanlons that English supremacy offered a greater opportunity for semi-independence than the O'Neill overlordship. O'Neill's continuing struggle for Ulster supremacy with O'Donnell did not prevent him from directing his attention to the rest of Ulster. By 1398, O'Neill was the acknowledged overlord of all Ulster, including both Irish and English, with the exception of O'Donnell's country of Tir Connell.

In 1395, Richard II, king of England, landed in Ireland with an army of 34,000 men with which he hoped to awe the natives and bring about a more peaceful occupation of the country. During the king's sojourn in Drogheda, he was visited by several of the Irish chiefs who professed their fealty and friendship for him. Among those who submitted to him as their sovereign lord were O'Neill, O'Hanlon, O'Donnell, and MacMahon. These chiefs were well received and accompanied the king to Dublin where they were entertained and knighted after the English manner. The given name for the O'Hanlon of this period may have been Niallan, as given in one item, or it may have been Catholius MacMortytagh (Murtagh or Morach) as given in another item. At least his alliance with the English was unpopular with some of his tribesmen, and they killed him the following year.

In common with other Irish chiefs, the O'Hanlons had their traditional place of coronation. This was at Carlingford, and Crawford's *Legendary Stories of the Carlingford Lough District* makes the following comment. "In 1404 the manor of Carlingford and the town of Irish Grange, which had previously belonged





# ULSTER 1400 A.D.







to the Abbey, and the Convent of Newry, were vested by forfeiture in the King, who granted them in fee to one Richard Sedgrave. Lord Thomas of Lancaster landed here in 1408, and proceeded to Dublin, to assume the office of Lord Lieutenant, and on his frequent visits to Carlingford from there 'tis said he always sat in the "King's Seat", a great coronation stone of the O'Hanlons, which was set by the castle walls, and removed when the new quay was being made close up to the old castle of King John."

The continuing warlike raids of the Irish on the English colonists prompted the king to send over a noted soldier in 1414 as lord lieutenant. This was Sir John Talbot who raided and plundered the natives for the next five years. Among those who received the brunt of Talbot's efforts were the O'Hanlons of Orior and the MacMahons of Oriel. Talbot plundered chiefs and churches and spared "neither saint nor sanctuary." The new lord lieutenant's first expedition began in the southern part of the English section, called the "Pale", where he soon defeated the Irish chief, O'Moore. By the terms of peace, O'Moore was compelled to aid the English against MacMahon who was defeated and forced to accept the same conditions of peace. With the help of these two Irish chiefs, Talbot was able to reduce two other powerful chiefs, O'Neill and O'Hanlon.

In the year 1422, Niall O'Donnell assembled all the chiefs of Ulster for an expedition into Connaught. O'Hanlon, of course, was one of the chiefs accompanying O'Donnell on this occasion. This great host plundered and devastated far into the neighboring province and then returned home. During the following year, O'Hanlon and several other chieftains made a foray into Louth and Meath against the colonists and exacted the payment of still more "black rent."

A strong hand was again needed in Ireland to subdue the native chiefs and the Earl of Ormond was sent over in 1424 as lord lieutenant. His principal objective was the subjugation of Ulster which he commenced by devastating the plains of Armagh and part of Irish Oriel. Ormond's forces were opposed by O'Neill and most of the northern chiefs although a few of the Irish lords allied themselves with the English leader. O'Hanlon, MacMahon, and O'Neill of Clannaboy fought with the English in this war either through necessity or animosity towards O'Neill of Tir Eoghan. The English were victorious in this war and forced O'Neill and O'Donnell to retire to their own territories of Tir Eoghan and Tir Connell.

Armagh was plundered by Brian MacMahon and the English of Louth in 1432. The invaders extorted a





large ransom from the elders of the town to prevent its total destruction. Many of the church valuables were taken and burned on the town's green. After committing as much damage as possible, MacMahon and his allies returned to their homes in triumph.

A hosting was made by O'Neill into the Fews (now a barony in the southern part of County Armagh) in 1452. Until about this period, the Fews was part of O'Hanlon's country. However, Hugh, son of Eoghan (Owen) O'Neill seized the area and it became a part of the O'Neill lordship.

Irish annals record that in 1476, John, the son of O'Hanlon, was slain by his own brother. In 1481, O'Hanlon was slain by the sons of Hugh O'Neill probably in an attempt to extend their dominion over more of O'Hanlon's lands. This Felim O'Hanlon was an eminent leader and a captain distinguished for his nobleness and great deeds.

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The ancient feud between the O'Hanlons and the Magennises broke out again in 1484 when Edmond O'Hanlon, king of Orior, seized and imprisoned Hugh, tanist of Ui Eachach Cobha. At the same time, Alexander, son of Hugh Magennis, was treacherously slain by Hugh O'Neill, junior. The apparent alliance existing at this period between the O'Hanlons and O'Neills was disrupted three years later with the raiding of O'Hanlon's country by Cooley (of the Fews), son of Hugh O'Neill. Several raids were made on Orior by the O'Neills aided by the sons of Redmond MacMahon and great devastation committed on the lands of the O'Hanlon, Edmond the Red, son of Murrough. In this year, 1487, there was a great inclemency of rain during the summer, like a winter of inclemency, so that much of the crops of Ireland were destroyed thereby.

The warfare between the O'Hanlons and O'Neills was continued in 1492 when the sons of the O'Hanlon and the sons of Redmond O'Hanlon slew John O'Neill, son of Carbry O'Neill. During the following year, the sons of Hugh O'Neill slew the O'Hanlon, Edmond the Red, and his son, John. Edmond the Red, was a son of Murrough O'Hanlon. There was a great famine in Ireland in 1492 which was accompanied by a hot summer.

There was a great conflict in 1493 between the O'Donnells and the O'Neills for supremacy in Ulster. Most of the eastern Ulster chieftains allied themselves with the O'Neills and thereby incurred the enmity of O'Donnell. In revenge, O'Donnell mustered all of his forces and plundered and laid waste those territories hostile to him, which included Orior, the country of the O'Hanlons.

In 1491 Perkin Warbeck posing as Prince Richard, of the House of York, arrived in Ireland and was





accepted by most of the Irish as the heir to the English throne. After a short stay in Ireland, Warbeck departed for France where he was recognized as the King of England. In 1494 King Henry sent over Sir Edward Poynings to Ireland as lord-deputy whose principal business was to suppress the adherents of Warbeck. Poynings first step was to lead an expedition against the northern chiefs, O'Hanlon and Magennis, who had given shelter to some of Warbeck's supporters. The difficulties of the country rendered the superior forces of the English useless and Poynings would have been forced to retire in disgrace but for the suspicion that the Earl of Kildare was in league with O'Hanlon. This furnished the lord-deputy with an excuse to withdraw from Ulster and proceed against the Geraldines. The Earl of Kildare was arrested and sent to prison in London but was afterwards declared innocent of the charges. Warbeck's cause declined and he was executed by King Henry in 1497.

In 1495 O'Hanlon (Melaghlín), son of Felim, accompanied the O'Neill and some other northern chiefs on a warlike expedition against Maguire. After several small battles, O'Neill at last gave Maguire his own terms of peace. Later this year, two sons of Felim O'Hanlon, namely Murrough Roe and Gilla-Patrick were slain by the sons of Hugh and Carbry O'Neill. During the following year, the O'Hanlon (Melaghlín, son of Felim), with his brother, Ardgál, treacherously slew Gilla-Patrick MacMahon and took his brother, Ever, prisoner. After these treacherous acts, the MacMahons allied themselves with O'Reilly and the English. There was great inclemency in Ireland this year so that there was enormous destruction of beeves and on other cattle also. There was a great dearth in the greater part of Ireland and great hindrance on the husbandry of the year.

In a battle with the MacMahons in 1497, Manus O'Hanlon, the Swarthy, Melaghlín O'Hanlon, son of Manus Oge O'Hanlon, and ten or twelve of the men of Orior with them, were slain in a battle with the MacMahons. The O'Hanlons killed sixteen of the MacMahons during the battle. That same year, Glasny, son of John O'Hanlon, was slain by the sons of O'Byrne. Trouble with the O'Neill's broke out in 1498 and the sons of Brian Bacagh (the Lame) O'Hanlon, son of Edmond Roe (the Red) O'Hanlon, slew Con O'Neill a fortnight after Little Christmas.

The famous battle of Knock-Doe (battle-axe hill) was fought near the town of Galway on August 19, 1504, between the forces of the earl of Kildare and the forces of the lord of Clanrickard. Warriors engaged in the







battle were fairly large as the number killed was variously estimated at from two to nine thousand men. The pretext for the battle was the degradation committed by Clanrickard on the country of O'Kelly, although Kildare had a personal quarrel with Clanrickard which made him anxious to espouse O'Kelly's cause. Kildare's allies included most of the Ulster chieftains, excepting the O'Neills, and the warlike chiefs Magennis, MacMahon and O'Hanlon were in the forefront of the battle, in which Kildare's army defeated their foes.

In the year 1515, English rule extended only over one-half of the counties of Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wexford, and even in this restricted area, most of the population were native Irish. Settlers within this area, called the "Pale", received peace from the Irish chiefs only if they continued to pay "black rent." The rest of Ireland was divided into more than sixty separate states, each of which was ruled by its own chief. IN Ulster, these independent chieftains were as follows: O'Neill of Tyrone, O'Donnell of Tirconnell, O'Neill of Clannaboy, O'Cahan of Kenoght in Derry, O'Doherty of Inishowen, Maguire of Fermanagh, Magennis of Upper Iveagh in Down, O'Hanlon of Armagh, and MacMahon of Irish Oriel (Monaghan). It was said of these men that they lived only by the sword and obeyed no other temporal person but only him that was strong.

Quarrels, of course, were common amongst the various states with each chieftain trying to extend his influence or attempting to retain his independence. The chief dissension in Ulster, naturally, was between the two most powerful branches of the Uí Neill, the O'Neills of Tyrone and the O'Donnells of Tirconnell. This battle for supremacy in Ulster again broke into open warfare in 1522 and both O'Donnell and O'Neill assembled all their warriors and allies for the contest. Most of the Ulster chieftains, including the O'Hanlon, arrayed themselves on the side of O'Neill. This great host marched into Tirconnell where they faced the men under O'Donnell. However, after some feinting and light thrusts at each other, the two armies parted without a decisive battle. O'Neill pretended to return home, but turned and marched his army southwards, devastating the country as he passed through. O'Neill's losses on this expedition were very minor and a little later he collected the same host and devastated much of Tirconnell. O'Donnell retaliated by sending a preying party into Tyrone which returned home with a great cattle spoil. Hearing of this, O'Neill returned home to an armed truce with O'Donnell.





The strategic position of O'Hanlon's country was illustrated in 1529 when it was claimed that the king's deputy in Ireland had to spend eight days every summer cutting passes through the woods adjoining the English Pale. Among the thirty passes mentioned as requiring maintenance, were three in O'Hanlon's country of Orior.

England severed connections with the Roman Catholic church in 1535 when Henry VIII, king of England, was declared head of the church by the English parliament. An attempt was made to establish the new English church in Ireland, and at first the majority of the Irish failed to realize the significance of the king's action. However, in a fairly short time the Irish awoke to the actual situation and strong opposition to the English church was instituted. In Ulster, O'Neill seized the opportunity to rally his chieftains and attempt to regain the kingship of Ireland. In August, 1539, O'Neill was joined by O'Donnell, Magennis, O'Cahan, MacQuillan, O'Hanlon, and other northern chiefs in an invasion of the Pale. During this invasion, O'Neill's forces burned the English towns of Navan and Ardee and wasted the adjacent country. Proceeding on to the hill of Tara, after collecting an immense booty, O'Neill reviewed his troops of whose numbers he was extremely proud. Following this display of might, O'Neill prepared to retreat into Ulster. However, the Lord-Deputy Grey had mustered his forces and marched them to Bellehoe in Meath where a great body of O'Neill's troops were encamped on the Farney side of the water. A desperate battle ensued, in the course of which the Irish were defeated and dispersed. Thus ended for the time being, the kingly ambitions of O'Neill.

During the next few years, the O'Neills regained their strength to such an extent that they were a source of continual alarm to the English. Consequently, the king in 1548 appointed a strong viceroy for Ireland in the person of Bellingham. His measures were prompt and vigorous and he fortified the seaport towns, built a strong castle at Athlone, freed Magennis, MacMahon, and O'Hanlon from paying tribute to O'Neill of Tyrone. O'Hanlon's tribute to the English government was set at a tax of 30 kine yearly and to support 40 gallow-glasses to be called out whenever the English wished them.

Another threat to the security of the O'Hanlons had been developing in northwest Ireland which reached a climax in 1557. In this year, the Scots who had been pushing the Irish out of what is now county Antrim,





succeeded in penetrating southwards into the plains of Armagh. The Scots were a warlike race and made a business of war. In fact most of the northern Irish chieftains employed Scot warriors who were called gal-lowglasses. In their invasion into Armagh, the Scots were supported by the natives and might have held their new territory but for the prompt action of Sussex, the king's lord-deputy in Ireland. Sussex mustered the forces of the English and hastened into Ulster where he defeated the Scots and plundered Armagh twice within a month. Very probably the country of the O'Hanlons was devastated during this short war which was fought in their country.

A few years later the celebrated Shane O'Neill, chief dynast of Ulster, began to be impatient of the English overlordship. His assumption of almost royal power in the north and subsequent rebellion was to prove harmful to all of Ulster, but particularly to the county of Armagh. Shane was a strong man and proud of his hereditary descent as king of Ulster. He not only deemed himself the genuine sovereign of the country but vaunted that the Magennis, the Maguire, O'Reilly, O'Hanlon, O'Kane, and other northern chiefs were his subjects and vassals. O'Neill had a bodyguard of six hundred soldiers and he was master of an army of four thousand foot and one thousand horse. Shane was successful in keeping English law from being established in Ulster and was finally defeated, not by the English, but by O'Donnell. Following the rout of his army in 1567 by the men of Tirconnell, O'Neill fled to the Antrim Scots for protection and was shortly afterwards murdered by them. After his death, he was accused and convicted of the crime of rebellion and his estates confiscated by the English crown. The estates of O'Neill's adherents were also confiscated and these included: Clannaboy and Fewes, Coleraine, the Route, Iveagh, Orior, and several other large territories. Most of these lords were conciliated to some extent, however, and received part of their estates back to hold from the English crown by letters patent.

It appears probable that by this time, Orior, the country of the O'Hanlons, was restricted to the area included in the present baronies of Upper and Lower Orior. The constant warfare in which they were beset from all sides by superior forces had finally reduced the O'Hanlons to chieftains of a petty state. It should be remembered that the O'Hanlons had at all times occupied a highly strategic and vulnerable position in Ulster. Their courage and resistance were remarkable to withstand for so many hundreds of years, the onslaughts of the Ui Neill, the Denes, the men





of Iveagh and, finally, the Normans and English. They were the bulwark of Ulster against invaders desirous of seizing Armagh, the pearl of the North.

On November 22, 1566, the O'Hanlon was killed while supporting Shane O'Neill in a battle with the English. Following his death, there was considerable competition for his chieftainship, principally between Shane O'Hanlon and Art O'Neill, an illegitimate son of the Baron of Dungannon and brother of the future Earl of Tyrone. He was better known as Art M'Baron and had strong native support. However, Shane Mac Eochy O'Hanlon had the support of Queen Elizabeth and was made lord of Orior. The patent for his chieftainship was as follows: "Appointment of John M'Cohye O'Hanlon to be captain of the county of Orrye. To hold during good behavior, paying a fine to the Deputy of 100 fat cows at Dundalke. All rights and services anciently issuing out of the country reserved.-3rd August, 1567." The Queen's reaction to the candidacy of M'Baron was given in a letter to the lorddeputy when she wrote: "Mislikes that Art M'Baron should be made O'Hanlon. The people should be trained from the inordinate tyranny of the Irish chieftains and to taste of the sweets of civil order." It should be noted that there must have been considerable prestige connected with being O'Hanlon for an O'Neill of Tyrone to strive for it.

After Shane O'Neill's death, O'Hanlon maintained his independence during the first few years of Turlough O'Neill's rule as the O'Neill. In 1571, Queen Elizabeth and O'Neill made a treaty by which the jurisdiction over the minor Ulster chieftains was divided between them. Magnassa (or Manus) O'Hanlon was among the chiefs who were taken under the direct protection of the Queen. Later, that same year, however, the same chiefs were placed under direct allegiance to the O'Neill.

A theoretical confiscation of Orior and the Fews took place in 1571 with the granting of these two countries to Captain Thomas Chatterton and his followers. Chatterton, however, found it difficult to take possession of his new territories and in 1572 requested that the government grant him Colla MacBrian's country in place of Orior. His request was not granted and in 1573, Chatterton received a new grant which read: "Commission to Thomas Chatterton, of Ladyard, Wiltshire, Esqr., with his friends and followers, being natural Englishmen, to invade, subdue, or expel, or bring to mercy the people of Ohrere alias O'Hanlon's and Galliglas' country, and the Fews. To remain in force for seven years after 28th March, 1570. Recites





that sundry parts of the Queen's Earldom of Ulster being waste or uninhabited, or habited with wicked and barbarous people, some Scottish and some wild Irish, Chatterton had undertaken to subdue and settle with faithful English these Countries.-7th January 1573-4." (From Clanna O'Hanluain by Henry M. J. O'Hanlon.) In his efforts to forcibly take Orior from the O'Hanlons, Chatterton was unsuccessful and was killed on one of his expeditions into the country. The lord-deputy Sidney while traveling through Ulster in 1575 wrote that the Fews and Orior were in extreme disorder, not only because of their devastation but because of the continual raids carried on by their neighbors, both English and Irish. He suggested that the lands be regranted to the original holders who would thus probably become good subjects to the English crown. The English Privy Council acted on this advice and in 1576 revoked the grant to Chatterton.

The strength of some of the northern chiefs in 1575 is given as follows: O'Hanlon, 12 horsemen and 120 foot soldiers; Magennis, 80 horsemen and 600 foot soldiers; Maguire, 200 foot soldiers; O'Cahan, 40 horsemen and 200 foot soldiers.

O'Hanlon complained in 1576 that his yearly rent was much greater than Magennis' although Orior was a much smaller country. However, the lord deputy considered O'Hanlon an open enemy and not entitled to any consideration while on the other hand he considered Magennis a dutiful subject.

O'Hanlon and some of the other northern chiefs who had been made vassals of Turlough O'Neill again complained of their high taxes in 1579. During the early part of December in this year, O'Hanlon's contribution to the government was set at one hundred head of cattle. This same tax was levied against O'Donnell, M'Mahon, O'Brasil and Baron Dungannon. Later that month, these chieftains were joined by O'Neill of the Fews in a coalition against Turlough O'Neill. They were supported by lord-deputy Pelham who was anxious to keep the Irish divided. Pelham was replaced as lord-justice the following year and O'Hanlon thought it expedient to return to the friendship of the O'Neill. A little later, however, Turlough O'Neill assembled 1,000 warriors and devastated O'Hanlon's country notwithstanding the peace. Through the intervention of the English marshall in Ireland, the O'Neill was again sworn to keep the peace.

In 1584 Sir John Perrott arrived in Ireland as the new lord-deputy. During his circuit of the north, he was visited in Newry by O'Hanlon and other Ulster chiefs who pledged their allegiance. That same year





Perrott divided the hitherto independent parts of Ulster into seven new counties, under the names of Armagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Coleraine, Donegal, Fermanagh and Cavan, for each of which he appointed sheriffs, commissioners of the peace, coroners, and other officers.

In considering the proposal to elevate Hugh O'Neill to the Earldom of Tyrone, the Queen's ministers advised that they could approve the proposal if her Majesty reserved to herself all the inhabitants from the Blackwater to the Pale, such as the O'Hanlons, M'Cann, Magennis, and MacMahon; and if the Fews be left to the government of some well-chosen man. It was deemed that if these measures were adopted, it would assure the Pale from invasion and cut off forever from the O'Neills these principal chiefs. Indicative of Hugh O'Neill's forethought were the alliances he had made with neighboring chiefs by marriages. His daughter was married to young O'Donnell and his sisters were married to Magennis and O'Hanlon. In addition, he was related to Maguire and O'Cahan, who were his cousins, and MacMahon, who was his nephew. However, these alliances did not provide Hugh O'Neill with unswerving loyalty from his adherents as all of the Irish chiefs had need to be an opportunist.

In a "Description of the Present State of Ulster for the year 1586" as quoted from the Carew Mss. by Henry M. J. O'Hanlon, the following is given for county Armagh.

"Armagh contains Oriragh, which is O'Hanlon's country. Clanbreasail, Clannacan, Clanull, Tiriagh, Fewes, and O'Nelán, of late made all contributions to the Earl of Tyrone. O'Hanlon's country is able to make 40 horsemen and 200 footmen. Clanbreasail has no horsemen but 80 Kerne (or footmen). Clancann (which was once the territory of the MacCanns) has 20 horsemen and 100 Kerne, who live upon stealth and robberies. Clanaville (or Clanull) appertains to the Archbishop of Armagh and his freeholders...and Turlough Braseloch (who) holds his portion of land from the Earl of Tyrone.....is able to make 30 horse and 80 foot. Muckre and Tireaughill, now possessed by the Earl of Tyrone..Fewes is peopled by certain of the Neyles (O'Neills), accustomed to live much on the spoil of the Pale....30 horse and 100 foot. O'Neylan is claimed possessed by the Earl of Tyrone...(and) hath placed there some of the Quins and Flagan, who fostered him, and sometimes he dwelleth there himself." Strength of some of the other Ulster chiefs is given as follows; O'Niall, 300 horse and 1,500 foot; O'Donnell, 200 horse and 6,300 foot; O'Cahan, 140 horse and 400 foot; O'Doghertie, 60 horse and 300 foot; Magennis, 60 horse and 80 foot.





In 1587 Hugh O'Neill was made Earl of Tyrone and was acknowledged as overlord by most of the Ulster chiefs. Through his influence, most of them surrendered their clan lands to the English crown and received them back under English law. Eocha O'Hanlon, lord of Orior, surrendered his land to the Queen whereupon he was knighted and regranted his country of Orior. Mentioned in the patent were Eocha Oge O'Hanlon, only legitimate son of Eocha O'Hanlon; Turlough, Shane, and Brian O'Hanlon, reputed sons of Eocha O'Hanlon; and Patrick, Melaghlín, Shane Oge, and Felomie O'Hanlon, brothers of Eocha O'Hanlon. Among the new knight's duties were to pay a yearly rent of 60 English pounds, and to attend when required the deputy or the governor of Ulster with 12 footmen and 8 horsemen, all in arms. He was privileged to hold a baron's court twice a year but the title of O'Hanlon was abolished. Sir Eocha, however, did not formally accept the regrant because of the provision in it whereby the land would be forfeited if any member of the family succeeding to it should enter into rebellion against the crown.

Ulster again became the scene of internal disorder with Hugh O'Neill, the new Earl of Tyrone, and Turlough O'Neill, the elected O'Neill, striving for northern supremacy. The border clans, such as the O'Hanlons, were caught between two, or rather three, opposing forces. There was the struggle for supremacy in Ulster between Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and Turlough O'Neill, the O'Neill. In addition, there was the continuing strife between the Irish and the English which brought little but devastation to the border clans. By this time, there were very few great Irish clans which weren't divided in their loyalty and the chief of the pro-English faction was designated as the queen's O'Donnell, the queen's O'Reilly or the queen's O'Hanlon, as the case might be.

Indicative of the waning power of the O'Hanlons is the change in ownership of the Fews which was brought out by a government commission in 1588. The commission issued the following statement: "Fews was and is possessed by the sept of the O'Nialls called the sept of Hugh M'Owen, which sept paid duties and service from time to time to O'Niall, chief of the O'Nialls. By the space of 140 years last past, namely from the coming of the said Hugh M'Owen O'Niall into Fews, who was the first of the O'Nialls who possessed it, and during the time aforesaid the said county of the Fews was reputed to be parcel of the said County of Tirone, but before the time aforesaid the jury say by virtue of their oath, that the aforesaid County of the Fews was parcel of the country called O'Hanlon's country, and not part of Tirone aforesaid."





Sir Eocha O'Hanlon's dislike of vassalage under Hugh O'Neill was commented upon by the Archbishop of Cashel in 1588 in his account of the State of Ireland written for the Queen. The Archbishop wrote as follows: "First under O'Niall are these six: Maguire, M'Mahon, O'Cahan, Magennis, M'Quillan and O'Hanlon. These six are great men in land and forces. These six principal men are very willing to be rid from the power of O'Niall, and be immediately under her Majesty to know their rent and duty; of whom three already viz., M'Mahon, Magennis, M'Quillan, do yield rent yearly to her Majesty."

In 1593, Turlough O'Neill retired as the O'Neill and Hugh O'Neill was elected to succeed him thus centering in one man almost absolute power in the north. From this time until his surrender in 1603, the history of Hugh O'Neill is the history of Ulster. Divided as they were in loyalty, and reduced in strength from constant warfare, the O'Hanlons played only a minor role in the last struggle of Gaelic Ireland to throw off the bonds of the invaders. Sir Eocha O'Hanlon was torn between his desire for peace and security under the English crown, which was at best difficult to depend on, and his love for Irish ways as exemplified by Hugh O'Neill. Consequently, his actions during the next ten years reflect his indecision and probably his inability to follow a consistent policy.

At this time the Earl of Tyrone was ostensibly a loyal government supporter and during Maguire's rebellion in 1593, he pledged his support of the government expedition against Maguire. Lord Hamilton in "Elizabethan Ulster" tells of the expedition as follows: "..... On the 29th the army encamped close to Enniskillen Castle, which was held by a small garrison of Maguire's men. Maguire himself was obviously nervous and disinclined to fight, for at the approach of the Government forces he burned everything that was burnable except the Castle, and retired further west with his main force.

Neither Tyrone nor Bingham had so far arrived on the scene. The reason for the former's non-appearance was subsequently explained by a spy (Phelim O'Hanlan), who reported to Bingham that, throughout the 20th, the Earl had been in close consultation with Hugh Roe, Maguire himself and Neil Garv, a story which was afterwards corroborated by Connor Roe, who had it from a different source and communicated what he had learnt to Bingham."

Although he was training soldiers and storing provisions for war with the English, O'Neill stalled for time where ever possible. An instance of this occurred in the latter part of 1593 when he wrote to the Lord Deputy that he had captured a notorious





malefactor and sent him to O'Hanlon for safekeeping. Sometime prior to this event, Sir Eocha O'Hanlon had been appointed the crown sheriff for county Armagh.

Early in 1594, Sir Henry Bagenal wrote to the lord deputy that the O'Hanlons and the Magennises had combined with O'Neill but not for any love they bore him. A short time later, Bagenal again wrote to the lord deputy and reported that O'Neill had gotten a very great buying from O'Hanlon, namely great supplies of provisions.

The northern insurrection began in 1594 when an Irish force under Hugh O'Donnell defeated the English at Enniskillen. The next year, O'Neill openly entered the field with his army and defeated the English force stationed at Portmore. In June 1595, Sir William Russell, lord deputy, marched from Dundalk against O'Neill. Two Irish chieftains, his allies, alternately bore his military ensign: O'Molloy on the first day, and O'Hanlon, hereditary regal standard bearer of Ulster, on the second. During a skirmish on July 20th in the Newry mountains, O'Hanlon was wounded in the foot. Thereupon, he was excused from further duty and returned home with his followers.

Sometime later O'Hanlon was persuaded to join O'Neill's forces and two of his sons aided the Ulster prince against the English in 1596. The battle was fought at Killeluona with Sir William Russell leading the English army and the Irish army under O'Neill, accompanied by Maguire, O'Cahan and the two sons of O'Hanlon. The Irish victory was complete and the English were forced to retreat to Newry after losing six hundred men on the battlefield. O'Neill's loss was estimated at not to exceed two hundred men.

At the Queen's request, O'Neill submitted a peace proposal which specified that all persons should have freedom of conscience and that the Earl and his followers, among whom was mentioned O'Hanlon, should be pardoned. The peace proposal was rejected and O'Neill continued with his preparations for a long war.

In 1597 the fortunes of war favored the Irish and they defeated the English in several engagements fought in Ulster. The principal battle this year was fought near Armagh with the English forces led by the lord deputy and the Irish under O'Neill. The English forces were defeated and they withdrew from Armagh.

One of the most famous battles of the entire war was fought in 1598 at the Yellow Ford, near Armagh. Two-thirds of the English under Bagenal were killed and they lost all of their war equipment in the retreat. The Irish under O'Neill suffered only very light losses. Turlough (Terence) O'Hanlon, eldest reputed son of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon, was with the Irish as Ulster royal





standard-bearer. When the English cavalry under Montague sought escape by flight, Terence O'Hanlon led his horsemen in pursuit and killed many of the English. On this raid O'Hanlon captured 200 horses from the invaders.

The following quotations are taken from "The Description of Ireland in 1598" edited by Edmund Hogan, S. J., and are illustrative of the position of the O'Hanlons in county Armagh:

"The Countie of Louth--It hath the most dangerous borderers and neighbors of any county: for it lyeth on the MacMahons of Monaghan, upon the O'Neilles of the Teenes, and the O'Hanlons of Armagh.

"The Countie of Armagh. This Countie hath to the South the Countie of Louth, the Blackwater to the North, the River of the Newrie to the East, and the Countie of Monaghan to the West. It containeth all the Land between the River of Dundalk and the Blackwater, saving a small proportion called Cowley, joining to Carlinford, belonging to Louth. In it are these several countries comprehended. Ornaugh, otherwise O'Hanlon's Countie. Clanbrassell, Clancane, Mucknoe, Oneylans, Clanant, Tirriagh, Feues. Most of these have Several Captens, to whom the Countries do appertain, but in time of Sir John Perrott were all made contributories to the Earle of Tyrone, to whom they were subject in the latter times.

"O'Hanlon's Countie reacheth from the Newrie and from Dundalk to Ardmaghe: it is for the most part without Wood, but full of Hills and Boggs. It is able to make 50 Horsemen and 250 footemen.

"The Principall Men of this Country are: The Primate of Ardmaghe. The Earl of Tyrone. O'Hanlons. Turloghe Brasilagh. Sir Turloghe McHenrie of the Fews. Art McBarons Sonnes. The Clergie of Armagh.

"Armagh is, as I have been told by the Earl of Devonshire, Lord Deputy, the most fruitful and luxuriant soil of all Ireland: so that if any manure be laid on it to improve it, it becomes barren as it were in resentment."

The military strength of the other countries according to the above quoted source were: Clanbrassell, 160 footmen: Clancane, 150 footmen: Clanant, 40 horsemen and 100 footmen: Feues, 50 horsemen and 200 footmen.

Phelim O'Hanlon who led a small faction of the O'Hanlons against the Irish was killed while fighting for the English near Newry in 1599. The English leader, John Clifford, in a letter stated: "There is also slain at Newry one Phelim O'Hanlon, who had twenty horsemen in pay of your Majesty. He was the most





sufficient man for that service that this Kingdom afforded, and the best for intelligence. He had four proper men for his sons, whereof three of them did run off to the enemy presently upon his killing." The names of three of these sons were Patrick, Hugh and Phelim Og. Shortly after this, Phelim Og O'Hanlon was sent by O'Neill with 160 men to reinforce Sir Eocha O'Hanlon in guarding Newry against the English. Hugh O'Hanlon, however, returned to the English side and was killed fighting against his own clan in 1600.

During the year 1600 most of the Irish border chiefs submitted to the lord deputy, Mountjoy, who by means of strategically placed garrisons hoped to encircle O'Neill. However, the long war was drawing to a close and the decisive battle fought at Kinsale in December 1601 in which the English routed the Irish was the turning point of the war. O'Neill surrendered to the English Queen in March of 1603 and shortly afterwards made a new submission to the succeeding King, James I.

On the 12th of February 1605, Sir Eocha O'Hanlon was attainted for his part in the recent rebellion and his estates confiscated by the English crown. However, this was supposed to be a mere formality as he was promised his estates back on condition that he surrender them voluntarily which he did in June of the same year. A pardon was issued later which included the following O'Hanlons: Eocha O'Hanlon, of Tonregie, in Armagh County, Knight; Eocha Og O'Hanlon, his son and heir apparent; Shane Og O'Hanlon, another of his sons; Manus Og O'Hanlon, of Tonregie, in said county, gentleman; Edmund M'Collo O'Hanlon, of the same county, gentleman; Glasny M'Owny O'Hanlon, of the same county, gentleman; Redmond O'Hanlon, of Ginchinstown, in County Louth, gentleman.

Concerning the regrant of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon's estates, Sir Arthur Chichester wrote to Salisbury indicating that he had "received letters signed by the Lords of His Majesty's Council, signifying his Highnesses pleasure for their accepting surrenders of patents from the Earl of Tyrone, the Earl of Tyrconnell, and Sir Oghie O'Hanlon, and regranting same." However, the regrant was never made and in October 1608, Sir Arthur Chichester wrote: "Sir Oghy O'Hanlon who lately surrendered his interest to the King, upon promise to have it repassed to him, which should have been performed by this time, if he had sought it, and would have permitted certain freeholders to take letters patent, and to hold immediately of the King, as he promised."

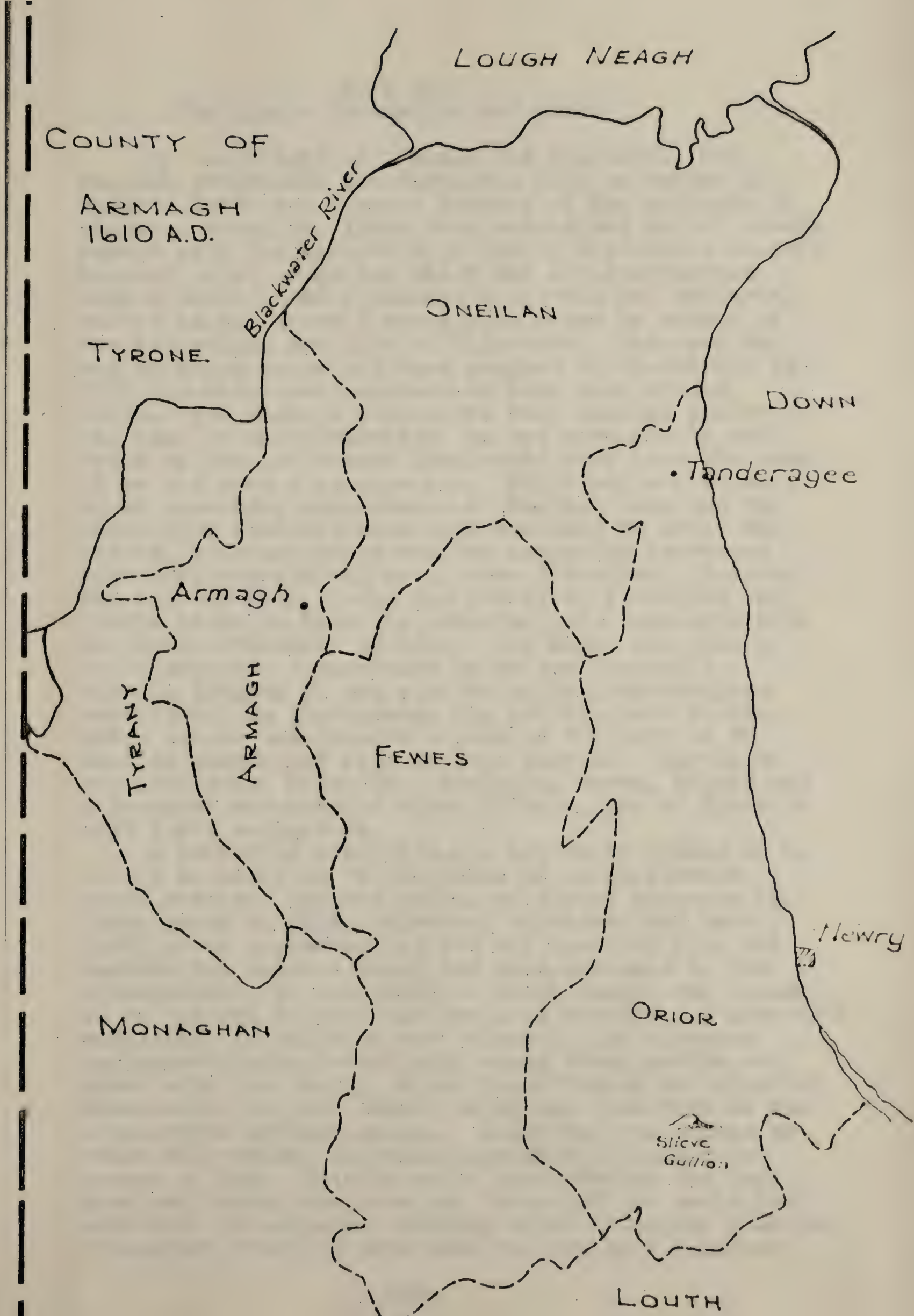




In September 1607, O'Neill and O'Donnell with their closest relatives and friends sailed from Ireland and with them went Irish hopes for a free country. Following their surrender in 1603, O'Neill and O'Donnell had been hounded by the English and their final departure was induced by news of a plot to accuse them of treason against the king. Their departure was the king's excuse for confiscating almost the entire province of Ulster which was soon followed by the Ulster Plantation.







LOUGH NEAGH

COUNTY OF

ARMAGH  
1610 A.D.

Blackwater River

ONEILAN

TYRONE.

DOWN

• Tanderagee

Armagh •

TYRANNY

ARMAGH

FEWES

Newry

ORIOR

MONAGHAN

Slieve  
Gullion

LOUTH





#### Part IV. The Ulster Plantation and After

By the flight of O'Neill and O'Donnell, the English government was furnished with an excuse to declare forfeited a great portion of the province of Ulster. Among the lands thus seized was all of county Armagh with the exception of Orior, O'Hanlon's country. However, most of Ulster which was not confiscated with O'Neill's and O'Donnell's estates was declared vested in the crown a short time later by virtue of the Act called the 11th of Elizabeth. This was the act by which Orior had been granted to Chatterton in 1571 and which was supposed to have been voided. Because Sir Eocha O'Hanlon was very old and infirm at the time of the plantation, he was more easily set aside by the government than would have been the case if he had been a younger man. Sir Eocha was known to be generally sympathetic to English rule and the Plantation commissioners were disposed to treat him fairly, although there was the generally expressed hope that there would be no more O'Hanlons. However, his son and heir, Eocha Oge O'Hanlon, forfeited any family right to Orior by entering into rebellion with Sir Cahir O'Doherty in 1608. Sir Eocha was judged to be directly compromised by having furnished a night's lodging to his son during this short-lived rebellion. In consequence his estates were confiscated and he was granted a pension for life of 80 English pounds per year in lieu thereof. Sir Eocha had four sons; Eocha Oge, Turlough, Shane, Brian; and a daughter who married Henry O'Hagan, one of Tyrone's most loyal supporters.

O'Doherty's rebellion was primarily caused by an insult he received at the hands of an Englishman named Pawlett, who was acting as deputy governor in Derry early in 1608. However, O'Doherty had been a loyal crown supporter and had not received from the English the estates which had been promised to him. Consequently, he was ready to seize almost any excuse in an attempt to gain the promised estates. O'Doherty's rebellion, in which he was joined by his clansmen and sympathisers lasted only about three months and ended with his death. Eocha Oge O'Hanlon was probably prompted to go into rebellion by the fact that he was O'Doherty's brother-in-law. Eocha Oge was joined by other malcontents in county Armagh to a number in excess of 100. This guerrilla band harried the English and Scotch settlers and lived off the spoil they were able to collect. Shortly after O'Doherty's death, O'Hanlon's band was surprised in camp by a superior





English force and the members scattered. Eocha Oge escaped but his wife, Margaret, was found by an English soldier, who stripped her and left her in the forest to die. After terrorizing the settlers in Counties Armagh and Tyrone for another year, Eocha Oge was issued a pardon on condition that he leave Ireland and enter the Swedish army. Young O'Hanlon, with many of his followers sailed for Sweden in October 1609 and fades from history. He left four sons; Patrick Mor, Phelim, Brian and Edmond Laidir.

Because it was known that most of the Irish were secretly in sympathy with Eocha Oge O'Hanlon and his followers, the crown levied a fine of over 266 English pounds on the inhabitants of Tyrone and Armagh. Most of the fine was levied against the baronies of Orior and the Fewes from where O'Hanlon was operating. It was considered that such means would probably drive him and his kind out of the country. Among the other expenses which were incurred by the crown were listed a payment to Neil O'Eagan and Ferdoragh O'Hanlon. They had raised a force of 40 men in an effort to capture two notable traitors, Patrick Oge O'Hanlon and Andrew McColle, (O'Hanlon) who with their followers had committed many outrages in the counties of Tyrone and Armagh. A similar expense was incurred in the case of Patrick Cartan, who had raised a force of twenty men to prosecute Brian McArte's son and Arden McCollo O'Hanlon who had gone into rebellion after the flight of the Earl of Tyrone.

Early in 1609, the Orders and Conditions were issued for the Ulster Plantation which was soon followed by the Project of Plantation. English commissioners were sent into Ulster to determine the exact extent of the lands which were now vested in the crown and were available for plantation purposes. In each country, the commissioners selected jurors from among the leading families to assist them in their work. In county Armagh, Redmond O'Hanlon was appointed as one of the jurors. From the evidence submitted during the investigation for County Armagh, the commissioners confirmed their previous belief that the lands not escheated by the treason of O'Neill must be considered as being vested in the crown by the Act known as the 11th of Elizabeth. However, there were minor exceptions among which was the inheritance of Patrick McPhelim O'Hanlon. Patrick, son of Phelim O'Hanlon who was slain fighting with the English in 1599, was on the pension list in 1603. In 1605, the lord deputy wrote to the English council that they had procured the lands of three towns, estimated to contain 300 acres, for the fort of Mount Norris. This land and





eight and one-half other townlands adjoining were being surrendered by Patrick O'Hanlon who was holding them by the old custom of tanistry. The lord deputy had agreed to grant Patrick a good estate in return for the above surrender. Five years later the promised grant was made as follows: "Grant from the King to Patrick O'Hanlon, gent., of Armagh Co., of the lands of Moytone, Mackergrary, Druiminlarch, Dirnchighon, and Drumchro, the two towns of Killincharnis, Tulliallen or Tullichonner, Tullikerrin, Achmochranichie and half of Drummer or Drummire. These lands were re-granted upon his surrender of them, reserving for the Crown, flat of Mount Norris and 300 acres adjoining, which were lately measured and measured by Sir John Floyd, Knt., and William Moore, of Birmeat, gent., by virtue of a warrant from the Lord Deputy; and were to be granted to Henry Anderton, Esq., for 21 years, provided that, if after that term the said fort should be relinquished, and no longer continue a fort with a ward, it might be lawful for (Patrick) O'Hanlon, and his heirs to re-enter and possess it, as the land thereto assigned, so long as it continue without award. Oct. 10th: 7th James (1610)" Patrick O'Hanlon is also on the pension lists of 1606, 1611, and 1623. However, in 1626 Patrick found it necessary to journey to London to try to get his back pension from 1623. He received part payment on this back pension, but in 1628 he again petitioned the English Privy Council as follows; "Petition of Patrick O'Hanlon, Gent., to the English Privy Council. Has 360 (English pounds) due to him, and has long been a suitor at court, but has got nothing. Is reduced to absolute poverty. Got a letter from the King two years ago ordering payment of his arrears and pension, but the Lord Deputy would not recognize it, as it was not addressed to himself. Prays that he may not be forgotten. He and his family have long been standard-bearers to the Kingdom of Ireland, which is a post of great credit. A barony which his family had possessed in Ireland was of late disposed of by one of the Lord Deputies. He would petition for its recovery, but that he is too parr. Underwritten: Referred to the Irish Commissioners." Early the following year, Patrick's name appeared on a list of the pensioners who got an order for their payments in Ireland.

Under the plan for the Ulster Plantation, all of the confiscated lands were to be granted to three classes of settlers: the English and Scotch undertakers, servitors and natives. Grants were generally supposed to be of three sizes, large, medium and small in which the acreages were 2,000, 1,500, and 1,000 acres. The servitors, both English and Irish, were





to be placed in those areas where the natives were to be settled as a means of holding them in check. The servitors were soldiers who had been leaders in reducing the Irish rebellion, while the undertakers were to plant their estates with English or Scotch colonists. Grants to the natives were generally considerably smaller than 1,000 acres. The English candidates for lands in Ulster usually expressed a preference for grants in the county of Armagh because it was better known and had a number of superior attractions for the English, not the least of which was its proximity to the Pale. By the proclamations for the plantation, the occupants of the confiscated lands were to be permitted to stay on their estates until November 1610. However, due to later difficulties in getting the undertakers to take possession of their new properties, the Irish were eventually permitted possession until May 1611.

Particularly in the county of Armagh, the natives of all classes were feared and suspected by the English authorities and among those in the highest ranks were the sons of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon who were nephews to the self-exiled Earl of Tyrone. Others in this county who were strongly suspected and feared were the sons of Art M'Baron and Sir Tirlough M'Henry O'Neill who were also closely related to the distinguished exile. A great many of the O'Hanlons had been faithful to the crown during the years of war and it was considered desirable to grant some of them small acreages in their former territory. Rev. Geo. Hill in his "Historical Account of the Plantation in Ulster" lists the following O'Hanlons who received land grants at the time of the plantation:

"Tirlagh Groome O'Hanlon, gent. The towns and lands of Aghteraghan, one balliboe; and the 1/6 of Nederny balliboe; in all, 140 acres.

"Shane McShane O'Hanlon, gent., 5/6 of Nederny balliboe; 100 acres.

"Shane McOghie O'Hanlon, gent., 5/6 of Bally-Yenan balliboe; 100 acres.

"Felim and Brian O'Hanlon, gents., sons of Oghie Oge O'Hanlon, Ballinelick, one balliboe; the half of Tawny-yocagh and Raconnel balliboes; in all, 240 acres.

"Rorie McFerdoragh O'Hanlon, gent., the town and lands of Corlosty, 120 acres. He died in 1620 and was succeeded in his estate by his son, Patrick Oge, who was then a grown man and married.

"Shane Oge McShane Roe O'Hanlon, gent., the town and lands of Corcrom, 120 acres.

"Patrick McManus O'Hanlon and Ardell Moore O'Mulchrewe (O'Hanlon), the half of Racomvell balliboe,





and Crevagh, one sessiagh, 120 acres.

"Redmond McFardoragh O'Hanlon, the half of Crenaghmore, 60 acres.

"Patrick Moder (O'Hanlon?), gent., the lands of Ballygargan, one balliboe, containing 120 acres.

"Ardill McFelim O'Hanlon, gent., 2/3 parts of the balliboe of Dromenlege, containing 80 acres."

Also mentioned in other sources as receiving a grant of land is Redmond O'Hanlon another servitor who was granted seven balliboes in Orior, dated 10 December 1610.

Mentioned as a servitor of Irish birth is Edmund Groome O'Hanlon who may have received lands in Ulster. He was on the pension lists of 1610 and 1623.

A pardon was issued in 1611 to Shane Oge O'Hanlon probably for taking part in Eocha Oge O'Hanlon's ill-fated rebellion.

In a list of differences for land between the British undertakers, servitors and natives in the several escheated counties in the province of Ulster in 1611, the following is included for county Armagh: "Between Sir John Bourcier and Art O'Hanlon for the town of Downlege, which the said Sir John challenges, alleging it to be named Sheaghmuirey Crivagh. This was suggested by this Art to be a concealment, but now it appears to be named Maghery Greenagh, a balliboe formerly passed for glebes, and found in the survey by that name, and therefore he must lose it."

One of the interesting legends concerning O'Hanlon's country which is related by Crawford in *Legendary Stories of The Carlingford Lough District* is named "Moyry Castle's Cat" which is summarized in the following paragraphs.

The Moyry Pass, Pass of Invermullane, or Gap of the North, is the only road leading into Ulster through the mountains of Louth; it is a narrow defile that extends for some miles through the Slieves of South Armagh, about midway between Dundalk and Newry--Congcullan's country. In this pass many battles were fought in old times, from the Cattle Spoil of Cooley to the invasion of Robert Bruce, who entered the Pale here, when he was crowned King of Ireland at Dundalk in 1316, and the Battlefield of Faughart, where he afterwards fell, is close by, as is also the place where Naom Onisie (St. Bridget) was born.

In the battles between Hugh O'Neill and Elizabeth's generals, the Moyry Gap was indeed a "Bearn Baoghail," a Gap of Danger. O'Neill's clansmen made it so troublesome for the armies of the Pale that Essex, sooner than attempt to force it, opened negotiations with O'Neill and signed a truce, for which he was recalled and lost his head. After him came Deputy Mountjoy, who was





also repulsed, but the ammunition of the Clan Niall giving out, he was enabled to force the pass, and in order to keep it, had a castle erected A.D. 1601, the pass thence forward ceased to be "a fortress dedicated by nature to the defence of freedom."

On termination of the wars with Hugh O'Neill, Deputy Mountjoy left a warden and twelve men to hold the Moyry Castle. As the sentries walked the ramparts one day, they noticed emerging from the woods, an old man leading an enormous cat by a chain. Although the man was dressed in the native Gaelic costume, he was dark with a foreign-looking appearance. He was admitted to the castle where he said he was a wizard or juggler. He entertained the inmates with wonderful feats and the tricks he made the tiger-cat go through. The wizard told of how he had reared the beast since it was a cub and of how it was ever ready to protect him from his foes or to perform at his command.

For a time, the wizard and his cat made their home in the woods and then went out on another tour of Ulster. Coming again to Moyry Castle, they were challenged by the sentry who, on getting no answer, fired and killed the wizard. Thereupon, the cat leaped onto the castle wall and killed all within.

The cat now reverted to a completely wild state and went round the country killing all the animals he met. On one occasion he carried off a child which was only saved when about a dozen of O'Hanlons' clansmen drove off the cat with their spears. The whole countryside was now hunting the cat and the men of Orior set traps and snares in an effort to catch him. The cat, moreover, was not satisfied with attaining his own freedom but resolved to start a cat-league for the emancipation of all domestic cats. There was one traitor-cat who feared for his life, and made the plot known to the people, and when the inhabitants of Oirghiella found the trend events were taking, and that they were about to be destroyed by the Tiger-cat, they resolved to strike first.

A council of war was held in the house of Chief O'Hanlon. At first they agreed to go in a body to kill the cat, and many a warrior who had faced a thousand battles turned pale at the thought of meeting the terrible tiger-cat. The question was, was he vulnerable; was it a mortal cat or demon in cat's form; was it possible to wound or kill him, this infernal spirit in cat-shape?

But O'Hanlon scorned the idea of a whole army of men going to fight one cat, whatever his size might be; he volunteered to go alone and slay it, be it cat or devil, so going to his armoury he selected a good





sword, and donning a suit of armour set out for the castle, advancing with great caution. Luck favoured him, however, for he espied the cat coiled up on the battlements asleep, after gorging himself with a lamb. O'Hanlon crept quietly up, and with a mighty sword-stroke severed its head and body. As the head fell in a pool of blood, its mouth opened and said, "When you go home tell your kitten what you've done to me."

O'Hanlon came home in triumph, and when he arrived he found the people there awaiting his return, and hearing of his success they were overjoyed, to be freed from the catamount of the castle.

He started telling them how he had killed the monster, and when he had gotten so far in his narrative, as where the falling head spoke to him, telling him to acquaint the kitten at home of what he had done, the little kitten who was lying at the fire listening, suddenly sprang at O'Hanlon's throat and severed his wind-pipe before anyone could interfere to save him.

It was one of the cat-leaguers, and thus avenged the catamount's death, although it lost its own life for doing so, for the people killed it on the spot.

Cattle-lifting was the principal and almost only offense to be dealt with in Ulster at this period. For nearly one hundred years after the Ulster Plantation, the woods and bogs of the north were inhabited by displaced Irish or their descendants who preyed on the Scotch and English colonists. During the early years of this period, cattle were the principal item of wealth and the woodkerne or rapparees devoted most of their attention towards its theft.

During the spring term of court in 1614, among the offenders brought before the court was Laghlin McDonnell O'Hanlon of Carrickelaghan, yeoman. He was accused of stealing three cows which had a value of 20s. each. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to be executed. The common mode of execution for these culprits was to put a halter around their neck after passing of sentence and lead them through the main streets of the town to the place of execution where they were immediately hanged.

In 1623 a Phelim O'Hanlon, who may have been one of Eocha Oge O'Hanlon's sons, is mentioned in Irish records as commanding a troop of 40 horse in the Newry garrison.

In the Irish uprising which began on 23 October 1641, the O'Hanlons under Patrick Oge O'Hanlon son of Patrick Mor O'Hanlon, took their old stronghold at Tanderagee. During the assault on the castle, Patrick Oge O'Hanlon was killed. His two brothers, Edmond





Eocha, and Ardell Oge took an active part at the outset of the rebellion, and the O'Hanlons were able to hold Orior again for a few years.

By the Act of Charles I, passed in 1642, which confiscated the lands belonging to the Irish who had joined in the rebellion, only one O'Hanlon was mentioned. This was Fyrmyn O'Hanlon of Castlemore, County Cork who was attainted and his lands confiscated.

About the time that Owen Roe O'Neill returned to Ireland to lead the Irish uprising, Captain Ardell O'Hanlon returned from Spain where he had seen service in the Spanish Army. He served under O'Neill until after the battle of Clones, county Monaghan, which was fought in 1645. The Irish were defeated in this battle and O'Hanlon was taken prisoner by the English. Although he had been promised quarter, O'Hanlon and another Irish officer were shortly afterwards murdered in cold blood.

Most of the Irish nobility espoused the cause of the king in Charles' struggle with Cromwell. Among the officers in the Clonmel garrison in 1650 were Captains Edmond O'Hanlon and Fardoracho O'Hanlon. Edmond was a grandson of Eocha Oge O'Hanlon and ultimately rose to the rank of a Colonel in King James' Irish army in the war of 1689-91. Edmond's son, Felix, also served in the army of King James as a captain of infantry.

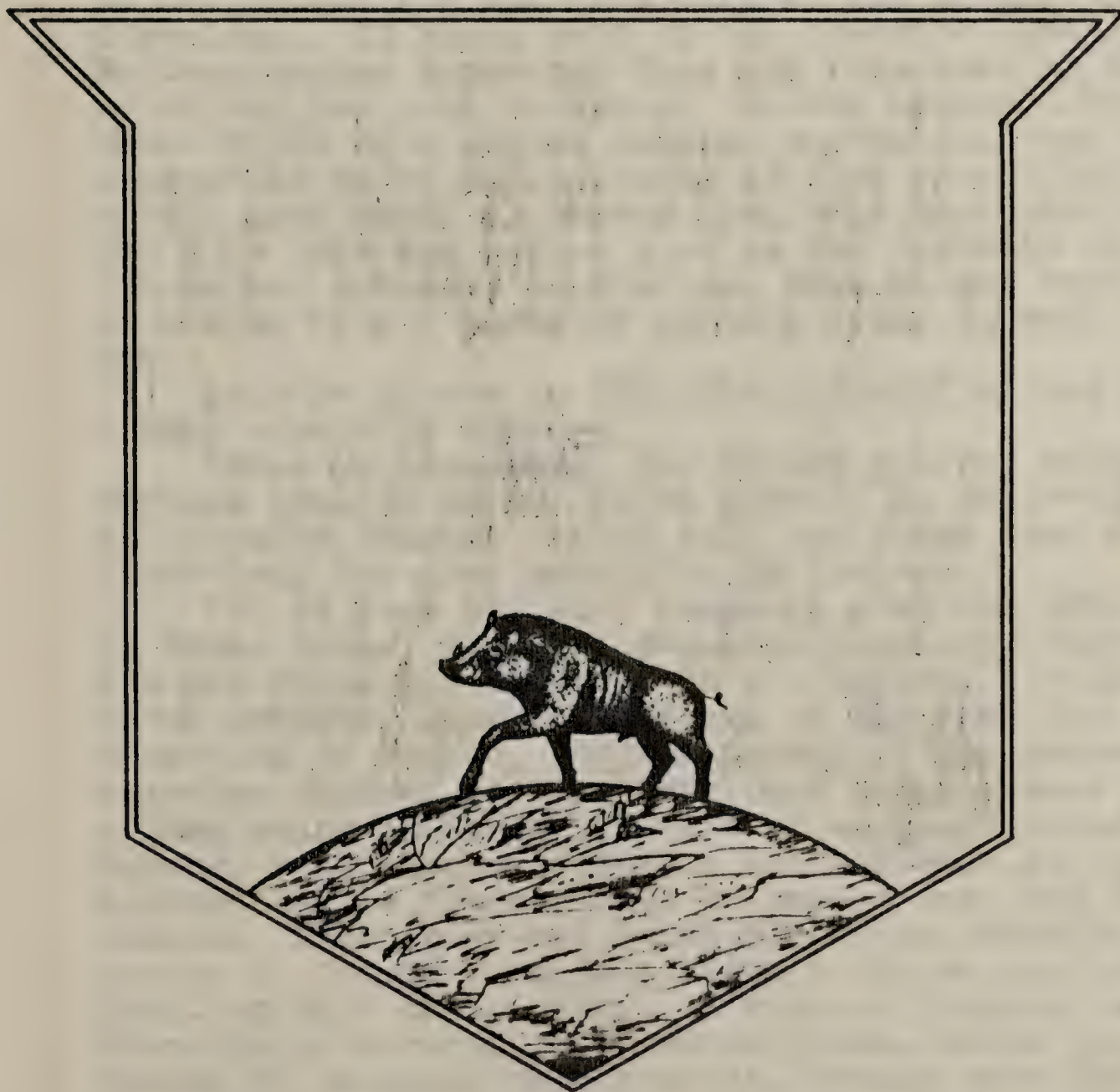
During the Cromwellian Plantation of 1652-8, almost all of the O'Hanlons possessing property were attainted and their lands confiscated for distribution to Cromwell's soldiers.

With the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1688, there was only one O'Hanlon who petitioned for the recovery of his lands. This was Hugh Buidhe (Yellow-haired) O'Hanlon who was enrolled on the "List of Innocents". The "List of Innocents" were those who were too young, or otherwise incapacitated to take part in the uprising of 1641. In his petition, Hugh stated that his father died two years before the rebellion began and that, at the time of his father's death, he (Hugh) was only three months old. He claimed that his estate had been granted to his family for many services in the wars against the Irish. Hugh may have been a son of Patrick, son of Phelim, brother of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon. However, Hugh was not able to regain his estate.

Redmond Count O'Hanlon, Ireland's Robin Hood, was a famous rapparee or outlaw in Ulster during the quarter century following the Cromwellian confiscations. He was born about 1623 near Slieve Gullion in county Armagh and had three brothers: Loughlin, Edmond Ben, and John. Redmond is thought to have











received a good education and to have served for a short period with the English army in Ireland. Following this service, he probably spent a number of years in the French army and then returned to Ireland where he collected a number of followers and became the leading guerilla-type leader of his time. His noble title of count was probably given to him as a sort of nickname in deference to his French army experience. Redmond harressed the Scotch and English colonists in the counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Down and Monaghan for about twenty years. During his career in the north, the English soldiers and settlers exerted the utmost efforts to apprehend him but without success. One of the incidents in Redmond's career is the origin for the arms born by his branch of the O'Hanlons. It seems that on one occasion during which Redmond became separated from his followers he became weary and lay down to sleep. He was awakened two or three times by a lizard running across his face and eventually awoke sufficiently to look around and saw a wild boar about to attack him. His encounter with the boar drew him into a wood in the opposite direction he had intended to take and thus he was enabled to escape from a party of enemies lying in wait for him.

Aooh De Blacam in "The Black North" writes of County Armagh as follows.

"When De Latocnaye, the French emigre, walked through Ireland in the years 1796-7, he declared that the country between Armagh city and Newry town was "certainly the most beautiful in Ireland."

"If he took the wild mountain road and travelled by White Cross, Belleek, Mountain House and Camlough, I would think his declaration not unjust; for those brown uplands, with their views of the vast and varied mountains of Mourne, their glimpses of the deep-sunk, sky-blue distant lough; these, and their masses of golden whins in Spring, drifts of white canavaun in Summer, vast slopes of purple heather when it is harvest on the farms--these places, I say, are lovely indeed. Especially are these highlands reaching across to County Down delightful to those who are familiar with their story. I know no lovelier spot than the crossroads of Mountain House, where the little tavern is as quiet as a convent, though once Count Redmond O'Hanlon used to meet his men there, if there was a coach to be halted as it climbed the updown road over the mountain's shoulder."

"One day the little tailor who was one of O'Hanlon's company was heard by the gentle-man-outlaw to boast that he could hold up a coach single-handed.





The little man was put to the test. Somewhere near Lislea, it may have been, the tailor approached the Dublin coach, presented his pistol, and cried: "stand and deliver!" A stalwart traveller in the coach merely hauled the tailor through the window and carried him away captive."

"Aye, but Redmond O'Hanlon, hidden aloof, had spied what had happened, and now he galloped by mountain paths to some other spot that the coach must pass. Again there was "Stand and deliver!" This time the travellers knew that they were dealing with the master robber himself, and they handed out their possessions humbly enough. They said nothing about the prisoner under the seat; but, when they had given up their purses and watches and jewels, Count O'Hanlon said softly:

"And now, gentlemen, one thing more. Just hand over my wee tailor!"

Finally after all other devices and men had failed to capture or kill Redmond O'Hanlon, the English government put a price of 200 English pounds on his head and induced Redmond's foster brother, Art O'Hanlon, to murder him. Art shot the great outlaw while he was asleep on 25 April 1681. Finerty in his History of Ireland has the following notice of the murder: "The Catholics were ferociously pursued in Ireland after this shameful tragedy. (Assassination of Oliver Plunket). Proclamations were issued against them by Ormond, who had yet again become Lord Lieutenant. They were forbidden to enter fortresses or to hold fairs, markets, or gatherings within the walls of corporate towns. They were also forbidden the use of arms—an old English expedient in Ireland—and they were commanded to kill or capture any "Tory" or 'outlaw' relative within fourteen days from the date of proclamation, under penalty of being arrested and banished from Ireland. This was the setting of brother against brother with a vengeance. Few of the Irish people were found base enough to comply with the unnatural order, but Count Redmond O'Hanlon, one of the few Irish chiefs of ancient family who still held out against English penal law in Ireland, was assassinated by one of Ormond's ruthless tools. The blood stains from the heart of the brave O'Hanlon will sully forever the escutcheon of the Irish Butlers."

A stirring poem concerning Redmond O'Hanlon was written by Francis Carlin and named, "Ballad of Douglas Bridge." The poem was included in Terence O'Hanlons "The Highwayman in Irish History."





## Ballad of Douglas Bridge

On Douglas Bridge I met a man  
Who lived adjacent to Strabane,  
Before the English hanged him high  
For riding with O'Hanlon.

The eyes of him were just as fresh  
As when they burned within the flesh,  
And his boot-legs were wide apart  
From riding with O'Hanlon.

"God save you, sir," I said with fear,  
"You seem to be a stranger here."  
"Not I," said he, "nor any man  
Who rides with Count O'Hanlon."

"I know each glen from North Tyrone  
To Managhan, and I've been known  
By every clan and parish since  
I rode with Count O'Hanlon.

"Before that time," said he to me,  
"My fathers owned the land you see;  
But they are now among the moors  
A-riding with O'Hanlon.

"Before that time," he said with pride,  
"My fathers rode where now they ride  
As Rapparees, before the time  
Of trouble and O'Hanlon.

"Good-night to you, and God be with  
The Tellers of the tale and myth,  
For they are of the spirit-stuff  
That rides with Count O'Hanlon."

"Good-night to you," I said, "and God  
Be with the chargers, fairy-shod,  
That bear the Ulster Heroes forth  
To ride with Count O'Hanlon."

On Douglas Bridge we parted, but  
The Gap O'Dreams is never shut  
To one whose saddled soul to-night  
Rides out with Count O'Hanlon.





Other O'Hanlons who were in King James' Irish army were Colonel Brian O'Hanlon, Captain Colin Hanlon, Lieutenant John Hanlon and Ensign Patrick Hanlon. Colonel Brian was a son of Glaisne, son of Patrick Ban, son of Edmond Laidir, son of Eocha Oge, son of Sir Eocha O'Hanlon. Listed in the Attainders of 1691, by which they lost their property, were; Shane Ban O'Hanlon, Eocha O'Hanlon, Phelim McEdmond Teigue O'Hanlon, and Brian O'Hanlon, all of Tyrone's Ditch, county Armagh; Phelim McPatrick Oge O'Hanlon of Clara; Redmond O'Hanlon of Phecos; Roger O'Hanlon of Tanderagee; John Hanlon, clerk, and Patrick Hanlon, both of Carlingford.

"Irish Life in the Seventeenth Century" by Edward MacLysaght has the statement "Thus in 1683, Sir Henry Piers mentions what he calls a fabulous story implicitly believed by the Catholics of Co. Westmeath, a belief in the power of a certain relic so great that none of them dared swear falsely on it for fear of deformity or death following." It may be of this relic that William Carleton was writing in his story "The Donagh; or, The Horse Stealers" which follows in condensed form.

Scene of the story is in Carnmore, a small village in the county of Fermanagh. A valuable horse has been stolen from the Cassidys and the brothers, Meehan, are suspected along with other known evil doers. It was the custom, if other measures failed to reveal the thief, to request all suspects to publicly swear on the bible that they were innocent. In serious affairs, the suspects were sometimes requested to declare their innocence by swearing on the "Donagh."

Denis and Anthony Meehan with three other criminals have stolen Cassidy's horse and successfully hidden it. Denis Meehan has a very weak character and is held in subjection by his stronger brother who is entirely unprincipled and has affection only for his daughter, Anne. These men with other suspects have just finished swearing their innocence on the bible when the priest places a small box on the table covered with a black cloth. "Let," said the curate, "none of those who have sworn depart from within the ring until they once more clear themselves upon this," and as he spoke, he held it up. "Behold!" said he, "and tremble--behold THE DONAGH!!!"

A low murmur of awe and astonishment burst from the people in general, whilst those within the ring, who, with few exceptions, were the worst characters in the parish, appeared ready to sink into the earth. Their countenances, for the most part, paled into the condemned hue of guilt; many of them became almost





unable to stand; and, altogether, the state of trepidation and terror in which they stood was strikingly wild and extraordinary.

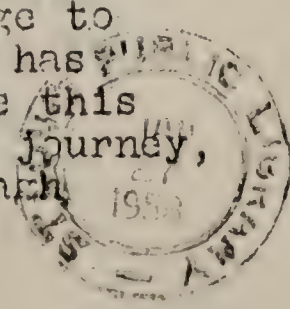
The curate now proceeded to warn the guilty ones to depart for no one had been known to swear falsely on the Donagh without being visited by a tremendous punishment, either on the spot, or within 24 hours. Before he had concluded, all except the Meehans and a few who were really innocent, had slunk back and hid themselves in the crowd. The Meehans were the last to approach the Donagh to swear their innocence. This was a severe trial even for Anthony and Denis fainted when his brother perjured himself on the Donagh. On regaining his senses, he asked to be saved from his brother and he would reveal all. Anthony then in attempting to shoot his brother, killed his daughter who tried to save her uncle. Anthony died within a few minutes during a fit of apoplexy.

Expert opinion on the Donagh was given to Mr. Carleton as follows.

William Betham wrote a letter dated October 1832 commenting on the Donagh. The Irish word Donagh, which is pronounced Dona, means the Lord's Day, or the first day in the week, sanctified or consecrated to the service of the Lord. This box, being holy, as containing the Gospels, and having the Crucifix thereon, was dedicated or consecrated to the service of God. The box is of brass covered with plates of silver and a box of yew inside. The Dona is nine and one-half inches long, seven wide, and not quite four thick. Betham fixes the age of the Donagh's outside covering as the 14th century, the inner silver box as much earlier, and the yew box as probably of the time of St. Tigernach, 6th century.

Rev. Dr. A. O'Beirne wrote a letter dated August 15, 1832 commenting on the Donagh. He went into county Fermanagh to inquire into the history of the Donagh but was able to learn very little. It had been a possession of the Maguires although none of the name knew anything of its history. After much inquiry Dr. O'Beirne got the following from a person in the area;

"Donagh O'Hanlon, an inhabitant of the upper part of this county (Fermanagh) went, about 600 years ago (longer than which time, in the opinion of a celebrated antiquary, the kind of engraving on it could not have been made), on a pious pilgrimage to Rome. His holiness of the Vatican, whose name has escaped the recollection of the person who gave this information, as a reward for this supererogatory journey, presented him with the Donagh. As soon as Donagh







returned to Ireland, the Donagh was placed in the Monastery of Aughadurcher (now Aughalurcher). But at the time when Cromwell was in this country the monastery was destroyed, and this Ark of the Covenant hid by some of the faithful at a small lake, named Lough Eye, between Lisbellaw and Tempo. It was removed thence when peace was restored, and again placed in some one of the neighboring chapels, when, as before in Aughadurcher, the oaths were administered by the priests with all the superstition that a depraved imagination could invent, as "that their thighs might rot off," etc. When Kings James and William made their appearance, it was again concealed in Largy, an old castle at Sir H. Brooke's deer park. Father Antony Maguire, a priest of the Romish church, dug it up from under the stairs in this old castle, after the Battle of the Boyne, deposited it in a chapel, and it was used as before. After Father Antony's death it fell into the possession of his niece, who took it over to the neighborhood of Florence Court. But the Maguires were not satisfied that a thing so sacred should depart from the family, and at their request it was brought back. Dr. O'Beirne believed that the box was made after the year 1449.

Among the O'Hanlons who left their native land to enter foreign military service were: Don Hugo O'Hanlon and Don Felix O'Hanlon, cadets with the Irish regiment serving in the Spanish army in 1788; Don Ardell O'Hanlon and Don Eugenio O'Hanlon, captain, both in the Spanish army in 1612; Captain O'Hanlon wounded in the service of France at Fontenoy; Captain James O'Hanlon serving with the French army in 1745.

O'Hart in his "Irish Pedigrees" gives the following pedigree for the O'Hanlons descended from Sir Eocha O'Hanlon: Eocha Oge, his son. Had two brothers, Tirlough and Edward.

Patrick Mor, son of Eocha Oge.

Edmond, his son. An officer in the army of King James II.

Felix of Killeavy in county Armagh, his son.

Edmond Ruadh of Killeavy, his son.

Hugh of Newry, his son. Died in April 1807, aged 86 years.

Patrick of Newry, his son. Had a brother, Hugh, who died in 1828 without issue. Patrick became a barrister and was living in Calcutta in 1830.

Hugh, son of Patrick. Was law advisor to the Irish office in London in 1831. His brother, Pringle, was a Captain in the First Bengal Cavalry and their brother, Edward was killed at Rangoon in the East Indies.





O'Hanlon in his "Clanna O'Hanluain" gives a pedigree for the O'Hanlons of Mount Bagnal as follows; Count Redmond O'Hanlon.

Terence, his son.

James, of Killeavy, his son.

Terence of Mount Bagnal, his son, who was born in Killeavy in 1698 and died in 1779. He had two sons and one daughter: James: Patrick, born in 1728 and died unmarried in 1760: Margaret, died in 1767 at the age of 32 years.

James of Mount Bagnal, his son, who was married first to Anne Moran of Dublin. They had one daughter, Catherine, who married Thomas Dolan of county Dublin.

James was married next to Alice Coleman of Dundalk. They had one son, Neale. James died in 1789.

Neale of Mount Bagnal, his son, who was married to Anne Magee of Newry. They had two sons and two daughters: James, born in 1812; Terence who died unmarried: Elizabeth, who married Mathew Martin of Dundalk; Mary Anne, who married James Gernon.

James of Mount Bagnal, his son, who never married. James O'Hanlon was the friend and fellow-worker of O'Connell during the great political battles of their time. He was a witty and powerful speaker and it was written of him that he was to his county of Louth "what his ancestors of Orior were to the Ulster clans, the Standard-Bearer of the People." James died of inflammation of the lungs at the age of 38.

Some members of the O'Hanlon clan are mentioned in the Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1536 to 1810 as edited by Sir Arthur Vicars:

1811--Handlen, Philip, Old Merrion, co. Dublin, esq.  
1785--Hanlen, Christopher, Dublin, livery stable keeper.  
1805--Hanlon, Bryan, Mary-street, Dublin, corn chandler  
1802--Hanlon, James, Mountbagnell, co. Louth, farmer  
1811--Hanlon, James, Dublin city, woollen draper  
1802--Hanlon, John, Red Cow, co. Dublin  
1802--Hanlon, John, Ballymorren, co. Wicklow, farmer  
1728--Hanlon, Phelim, Dublin, innkeeper  
1656--Hanlon, Richard, Abbottstown, co. Dublin, yeoman  
1750--Hanlon, Timothy, Grangeforth, co. Carlow, farmer  
1808--O'Hanlon, Hugh, Newry, co. Down, gent.  
1700--O'Hanlon, John, Ballyinlessin, co. Armagh, gent.

In a list of wills preserved in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, and compiled by Edward and Mabel Phelps, the following O'Hanlon is noted:

1724--Hanlon, Alexr.

The first Vicar Apostolic to the Upper Nile was Msgr. Henry Hanlon who was born in 1862.





John O'Hanlon was born in Queen's County, Ireland in 1821. He was ordained a Catholic priest in the United States and then returned to Ireland. He was a noted historian and author.

A few O'Hanlons migrated to the United States during colonial times, although the main influx of the Irish into this country didn't take place until after the Revolutionary War.

There was a Handlan that came to Maryland with Lord Baltimore.

John and William Handlin came to Newcastle, Delaware in 1740.

Agnes and Hugh Hanlan left wills in Norfolk County, Virginia, which were proved in 1717 and 1718, respectively.

Charles Hanlon is mentioned in New York history during the year 1737.

Patrick O'Hanlon was a merchant in New Jersey in 1766.

The above mentioned names are included only to indicate the early arrival of some members of the family to this country. The names listed were noted incidentally to other research.





Pedigree of Sir Eocha (Oghy) O'Hanlon  
Last Irish Lord of Orior

Adapted from Irish Pedigrees by John O'Hart

1. Niallan, son of Feig. Lived prior to 400. This Niallan had a brother named Fiachra Ceannfinan, who was ancestor of Duffry and Garvey; and another brother, Oronn, who was ancestor of Mooney, of Airgialla.
2. Eoghan (or Owen), son of Niallan: had a brother named Muireadhach, who was the ancestor of St. Colman of Kill.
3. Muireadhach, son of Eoghan. Lived about 430. Had a brother, Finneadh, who was father of Daire. (P. 118, MacManua). His nephew, Daire, was king of Airgialla during the time of St. Patrick.
4. Baodan, his son,
5. Ronan, his son.
6. Suibbneach, his son. Had a brother named Crunmoal
7. Colgan, his son
8. Egnech, his son. Killed in 721. Lord of Airthir
9. Suibneach (2), his son. (Congal, son of Egnech, Lord of Airthir, killed 747.)
10. Cosgrach, his son. Had a brother named Cearnach, from whom the Carney family was descended.
11. Dermod, son of Cosgrach (Lorcan, son of Cosgrach, Lord of Ui Niallain, slain 879)
12. Anluain, his son. ("an-luain: "Irish, the champion) From whom the name UahAnluain is derived.
13. Brian: his son
14. Aedh (or Hugh): his son
15. Diarmaid: his son
16. Flaithbheartach: his son. Died 983. The first to assume the surname of Ua hAnluain
17. Cumascach: his son
18. Maccraith: his son.
19. Flann: his son
20. Moroch: his son: had a brother named Giollapadraic.
21. Ardgai: son of Moroch.
22. Moroch Ruadh: his son.
23. Edmond: his son.
24. Eocha: his son. (King of Airgialla in 1272)
25. Shane (John): his son: had a brother named Patrick.
26. Eocha (2): son of Shane
27. Shane Oge: his son
28. Eocha (3): his son
29. Shane (3): his son
30. Giollapadraic Mor: his son
31. Eocha (4): his son
32. Shane (4): his son. Became Lord of Orior in 1566.





33. Shane (5) Oge: his son. This Shane had five sons--  
1. Eocha (called "Oghy").  
2. Patrick,  
3. Melaghlin,  
4. Shane Oge,  
5. Felim.
34. Sir Eocha O'Hanlon, of Tanderagee, knight: son of  
Shane Oge: Chief of his name: Lord of Upper and  
Lower Orior, in County Armagh.





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ca 1600

A Perticuler Of The Rebells Forces of Horse and Foote Ordinarilye Imployed In The Rebellion, 28 April 1599.

In Vlster.	foote	horse
Neil mac Bryan Ferte of the Upper Clanneboy	80	30
Shane Mac Bryan of the lower Clanneboy	30	50
The Whites cuntry, called the Duffrye	20	
Mac Artens cuntry, and Sleught mac O'Neils	100	20
Mac Rory of Killwarlen	60	10
Hugh Mac Hurtoth of the Feagher beyond the Mynwater	40	
Shane mac Bryan Carragh, and his cuntry joyn- ynr on the Bansyde	50	10
James mac Surly buy, and his 2 brothers Weece and Randoll in the cuntry of Towany (being the Route) together with y Climes	400	100
Mac Mahon with Ferny and Glancarvell, Patrick Macarty Boyle, being a competitor to y county of Monahan	500	160
Edmund Reagh of ye Breny	500	100
O'Chane with his cuntrye	500	200
Sleught Art, Sr. Art O'Neiles cuntry	300	60
Henry O' mac Shane	200	40
Turlogh mac Henry of ye fewes brother to ye erle of Tyrone	300	60
O'Hagen and his cuntry	100	30
The Donnellagh cuntry betwixt the ryver of fin and lough Mullilly possessed by con O'Donnell's sonnes and mac Hugh Luff	100	60
Mac Connagh	100	12
Lord Savedg of litle Ardes	30	10
Mac Guyre in the couty of Fermanagh	500	80
O'Hanlan	200	40
O'Guin	80	20
The erle of Tyrone hath for his own retvner comonly attending about him	700	200
Cormoc mac Barron, the erls brother	300	60
Irish mac Guynies	300	40
Sr. John O'Dogherty and his cuntry joyning vupon lough Boyle	300	40
In the Mac Swynes cuntry	500	30
O'Boyle and his cuntry	100	20
O'Connell and his cuntry of Dunegall	200	60
O'Callogher	200	40
Sleught Rories cuntry	100	50

Summa in Ulster, foote 6940, horse 1652, in all  
8592

Summa totalis of the Rebells whole forces in Irelande,  
foote 17300, horse 11552, in all 29352.





From Historical Ballad Poetry of Ireland  
arranged by M. J. Brown      year 1691

The Irish Rapparees

By Sir Ch. Gavan Duffy

(Rory's boys. The Rory in question was Redmond or Rory O'Hanlon)

Righ Shemus he has gone to France and left his crown  
behind:--

Ill luck be theirs both day and night put runn'n' in  
his mind!

Lord Lucan followed after with his slashers brave and  
true,

And now the doleful keen is raised--"What will poor  
Ireland do? What must poor Ireland do?

"Our luck," they say, "has gone to France--what can  
poor Ireland do?"

Oh! never fear for Ireland, for she has soldiers still,  
For Rory's boys are in the wood, and Reny's on the hill;  
And never had poor Ireland more loyal hearts than these--  
May God be kind and good to them, the faithful Rapparees!

The fearless Rapparees!

The jewel were you Rory with your Irish Rapparees!

Oh! black's your heart, Clan Oliver, and coulder than  
the clay.

Oh! high's your head, Clan Sarsanach, since Sarsfield's  
gone away!

It's little love you bear to us for sake of long ago,  
But howld your hand, for Ireland still can strike a  
deadly blow--

Can strike a mortal blow--

Och! dhar-a-Chreesth! 'tis she that still could strike  
the deadly blow!

The master's bawn, the master's seat, a surly bodagh fills;  
The master's son, an outlawed man, is riding on the hills.  
But God be praised, that round him throng, as thick as  
summer bees,

The swords that guarded Limerick wall--his loyal Rapparees!  
His lovin' Rapparees!

Who dares say no to Rory Oge with all his Rapparees?

Black Billy Grimes of Latnamard, he racked us long and  
sore--

God rest the faithful hearts he broke!--we'll never see  
them more!

But I'll go bail he'll break no more while Inagh has  
gallows trees,

For why? --he met, one lonesome night, the fearless  
Rapparees!

The angry Rapparees!

They never sin no more, my boys, who cross the Rapparees!





continuation, from Historical Ballad Poetry of Ireland,  
arranged by M. J. Brown

Now, Sassanach and Cromweller, take heed of what I say--  
Keep down your black and angry looks that scorn us night  
and day;  
For there's a just and wrathful Judge, that every action  
sees,  
And He'll make strong to right our wrong, the faithful  
Rapparees!  
The fearless Rapparees!  
The men that rode at Sarsfield's side, the roving  
Rapparees!

The Ancestors of Niallan --  
Progenitor of the Ui Niallan  
(From O'Harts' "Irish Pedigrees")

1. Adam
2. Seth.
3. Enos.
4. Cainan.
5. Mahalaleel
6. Jared
7. Enoch
8. Methuselah.
9. Lamech.
10. Noah divided the world amongst his three sons, begotten of his wife Titea: viz., to Shem he gave Asia, within the Euphrates, to the Indian Ocean; to Ham he gave Syria, Arabia, and Africa; and to Japhet, the rest of Asia beyond the Euphrates, together with Europe to Gades (or Cadiz).
11. Japhet was the eldest son of Noah. He had fifteen sons, amongst whom he divided Europe and the part of Asia which his father had allotted to him.
12. Magog.
13. Baath.
14. Phoeniusa Farsaidh (or Fenius Farsa) was King of Scythia, at the time that Ninus ruled the Assyrian Empire.
15. Niul.
16. Gaodhal (or Gathelus). the son of Niul, was the ancestor of the Clan-na-Gael.
17. Asruth.
18. Sruth.
19. Heber Scut (Scut: Irish, a Scot).
20. Beoman.
21. Ogamán.
22. Tait.
23. Agnon.
24. Lemhfiann.





Continuation The Ancestors of Niallan.--from O'Harts

25. Heber Glunfionn.
26. Agnan Fionn.
27. Febric Glas.
28. Fenuall.
29. Nuadhaid.
30. Alladh.
31. Arcadh.
32. Deag.
33. Brath.
34. Breoghan (or Brigus) was king of Galicia, Andalusia, Murcia, Castile, and Portugal--all which he conquered.
35. Bile
36. Milesius whose sons were the leaders of the plantation of Ireland by the Milesian or Scottish Nation which took place in the Year of the World three thousand five hundred, or the next year after Solomon began the foundation of the Temple of Jerusalem, and one thousand six hundred and ninety-nine years before the Nativity of our Saviour Jesus Christ; which, according to the Irish computation of Time, occurred Anno Fundi five thousand one hundred and ninety nine.
37. Heremon: his son. He and his eldest brother Heber were, jointly, the first Milesian Monarchs of Ireland: they began to reign, A.M. 3,500, or, Before Christ, 1699.
38. Irial Faich ("faich": Irish, a prophet): 10th Monarch of Ireland.
39. Eithrial: 11th Monarch.
40. Foll-Aich.
41. Tigernmas: 13th Monarch.
42. Enboath.
- 43.. Smiomghall.
44. Fiacha Labhrainn: 18th Monarch.
45. Aongus Olmucach: 20th Monarch.
46. Main.
47. Rotheachtach: 22nd Monarch; slain B.C. 1357
48. Dein.
49. Siorn "Saoghalech" 34th Monarch.
50. Olioll Aolcheoin.
51. Gialchech; 37th Monarch
52. Nuadhas Fionnfail: 39th Monarch
53. Aedan Glas.
54. Simeon Breac: 44th Monarch.
55. Muredach Bolgach: 46th Monarch.
56. Fiacha Tolgach: 55th Monarch.
57. Duach Ladrach: 59th Monarch killed B.C. 737.
58. Eochaidh Buadhech:
59. Ugaine Mor: 66th Monarch of Ireland.
60. Colethach Caol-bhreagh: 69th Monarch.
61. Belg Fobhthach: 71st Monarch: slain B.C. 541.
62. Iaran Gleofathech: 74th Monarch





Continuation The Ancestors of Niallan --from O'Harts

63. Conla Caomh: 74th Monarch of Ireland
64. Olioll Cas-fiachlach: 77th Monarch.
65. Eochaidh Alt-Leathan: 79th Monarch.
66. Aongus (or Aeneas) Tuirmeach-Teamrach: 81st Monarch
67. Enna Aigneach: 84th Monarch.
68. Assaman Eamhna.
69. Roighen Ruadh.
70. Fionnlogh.
71. Fionn.
72. Eochaidh Feidlioch: 93rd Monarch.
73. Bress-Nar-Lothar.
74. Lughaidh Sriabh-n Dearg: 98th Monarch.
75. Crimthann-Miadh-Nar: 100th Monarch of Ireland.  
It was in this Monarch's reign that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born.
76. Feredach Fionn-Feachtnach: 102nd Monarch.  
The epithet "Feachtnach" was applied to this Monarch because of his truth and sincerity. In his reign lived Foran, the son of Maom, a celebrated Brehon, or Chief Justice of the Kingdom; it is said that he was the first who wore the wonderful collar called Iodhain Morain; this collar possessed a wonderful property:--if the judge who wore it attempted to pass a false judgement it would immediately contract, so as nearly to stop his breathing; but if he reversed such false sentence the collar would at once enlarge itself, and hang loose around his neck. This collar was also caused to be worn by those who acted as witnesses, so as to test the accuracy of their evidence. This Monarch, Feredach, died a natural death at the regal city of Tara, A.D. 36.
77. Fiacha Fionn Ola: 104th Monarch.
78. Tuathal Teachtmar; 106th Monarch of Ireland.
79. Fedhlimidh (Felim) Rachtmar: 108th Monarch.
80. Conn Ceadcathach (or Conn of the Hundred Battles).
81. Art Eanfhear, the 112th Monarch of Ireland.
82. Cormac Ulfhada. 115th Monarch.
83. Cairbre-Lifeachar, the 117th Monarch of Ireland:
84. Eochaidh Dubhlen.
85. Colla da Chrioch.
86. Fiachra Casan.
87. Felim.
88. Feig.
89. Niallan.





The O'Hanlons of Orior  
By Hugh Digenan  
(Printed in Newry Reporter, December 13, 1923).

The Rev. Seumas O'Cuinn, a learned local antiquary, in the "Louth Archeological Journal," Vol. II, No. 1, prints a drawing and gives the following description of the O'Hanlon arms on a tombstone in New town cemetery Lordship, belonging to a family of O'Hanlons who resided near Carlingford, and claimed to be descended from Redmond the Rapparee: "On the shield will be seen a boar passant..... The crest is a mailed right hand grasping a dagger... the motto is, Fidelior Nemo, being in English 'No one more loyal.'" He further remarks: "One misses the lizard to which persistent tradition gives pride-of place: in its stead the hand and dagger appear." .....

Regarding the O'Hanlon arms on the Newry tomb, it may be stated in plain terms that the shield is quartered, the crest is a coronet, surmounted by a right hand grasping a lizard, a dagger is in the dexter chief, and a boar underneath. The motto is "Fidelior Nemo."

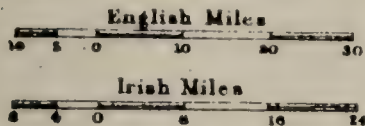






# IRELAND

in the middle of the  
XVII<sup>th</sup> CENTURY



Copy of map in Falkiner's  
"Illustration of Irish History"



IRELAND

Scale of Miles  
0 10 20 30

Legend  
— Main Roads  
— Railways  
— Waterways





















